

PRESS RELEASE

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AMBASSADOR BENAVIDEZ CALLS ON FILIPINOS IN BRUNEI TO REMEMBER LEGACY OF OUR HEROES DURING INDEPENDENCE DAY RITES

28 June 2006 – Philippine Ambassador to Bandar Seri Begawan Virginia H. Benavidez reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Embassy rallied all Filipinos in Brunei to join the rest of their countrymen in remembering their forefathers and the legacy they have left for the present generation during the 108th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence celebration on 12 June 2006 at the “Ang Bahay,” the official residence of the Ambassador.



Philippine Ambassador Virginia H. Benavidez and Defense Attaché Col. Teodoro Torralba raise the Philippine flag, with the assistance of the leaders of the various Filipino organizations in Brunei Darussalam, during the flag raising ceremony on the occasion of Philippine Independence Day held at the “Ang Bahay”, official residence of the Philippine Ambassador, in the morning of 12 June 2006.

In her Independence Day address, Ambassador Benavidez said that this year’s Independence Day theme was a powerful reminder for all to draw upon the collective strength of the Filipino people to help fulfill President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s vision of a strong, stable and secure Philippine Republic.

Ambassador Benavidez and Defense Attaché Col. Teodoro CT Torralba III led the flag raising ceremony with the assistance of the leaders of the various religious and non-religious Filipino organizations in Brunei Darussalam.

More than 100 Filipino nationals in the Sultanate attended the traditional flag raising ceremony commemorating Philippine Independence. The rites began with the raising of the flag and the singing of the Philippine national anthem, followed by an invocation led by three Filipino representatives from the Muslim and Christian communities, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Col. Torralba.

The reading of the Independence Day Messages of the President, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Labor and Employment and OWWA Administrator by the key officers of the Embassy followed. The program ended with the singing of “Pilipinas Kong Mahal” and a breakfast fellowship. Ambassador Benavidez then hosted a sumptuous breakfast of beef tapa, smoked milkfish, fried rice, tuna sausages, “danggit”, dried squid, vegetable omelette, home-made taho, egg-pie and native cakes. END