

PRESS RELEASE

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FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN TUTONG DISTRICT CELEBRATED THE 109TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

21 August 2007—Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Virginia H. Benavidez reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Filipino Community in Tutong District, Brunei Darussalam celebrated the 109th Anniversary of Philippine Independence at the Halim Plaza Hotel last 4 August. The event was organized by the Filipino Association Brunei (FAB), Tutong



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Philippine Embassy officers with the members of the Filipino community during the celebration of the 109th Anniversary of Philippine Independence in Tutong District

The fun-filled affair was attended mostly by workers from the ATH Garments Factory. Three talented Filipino singers, twelve-year old Bridget Ang, garments factory supervisor Ronaldo Narciso and ATH worker Hazel Galendez entertained the crowd with popular English and Filipino songs. Bridget Ang, who is already a recording artist in Brunei, sang her own composition entitled, "I Love You Mother," causing some Filipinos to become emotional and cry.

Raffle prizes were given away, including two mobile phones donated by the Philippine Embassy key officers. The crowd also had an enjoyable time participating in the Philippine history quiz. The rest of the evening was devoted to the community dancing, which lasted until midnight.

Some of the Embassy's key officers, led by Second Secretary and Consul Jaime Ramon Ascalon, graced the community gathering. In his address, Consul Ascalon praised the Filipino community in Tutong for celebrating the 109th Anniversary of Philippine Independence despite their hectic schedule. He took the opportunity to introduce the Embassy's new Labor Attaché, Dr. Elizabeth Recio and Welfare Officer Norlita Lugtu. Defense Attaché Col. Teodoro Torralba, SSS Representative Marivic Rutor and Pag-IBIG Representative Arlina Feliciano also attended the celebration.

The Officers of the Filipino Association in Brunei, led by its President, Mr. Dan Roxas were also present.

The Filipino community gathering at Tutong is the 10th activity for the 1 ½ month long series of Philippine Independence Day celebrations in Brunei. The final activity would be the Philippine Independence Day Golf Cup in early September. END

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