

## PRESS RELEASE

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## PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, BRUNEI ORGANIZES 1<sup>ST</sup> GOLF MATCH BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE



Members of the Diplomatic Corps and of the Prime Minister's Office pose during the Awarding Ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Golf Tournament between the Diplomatic Corps and the Prime Minister's Office, which aims to enhance camaraderie and strengthen diplomatic ties.

5 February 2007 – Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Virginia R Benavidez reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that she, as the Golf Coordinator for the Diplomatic Corps, organized the first ever golf tournament with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) held at the Royal Brunei

Airlines Golf Club on Sunday, 28 January 2007.

Amid drizzles and cold weather, a total of 42 golfers from among the diplomats, led by H.E. Dr. Bounthong Vongsaly, Lao Ambassador to Brunei and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and the officials of the Prime Minister's Office, headed by Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Hamid bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Yassin, Permanent Secretary, participated in the golf tournament, where the Diplomatic Corps emerged overall winner.

In her opening remarks at the awarding ceremony that followed the games, Ambassador Benavidez, cited the importance of the game of golf in "getting together men and women of diverse backgrounds and nationalities and of various professions, to be at equal footing and enjoying each other's company and enhancing camaraderie, friendship and networking that pervade every golf game and get-together."



Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Virginia H. Benavidez delivers an opening remarks at the awarding ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Golf Tournament between the Diplomatic Corps and the Prime Minister's Office, which she described as successful in engaging golfers in "Golf Diplomacy."

"On behalf of the Diplomatic Corps team, I appreciate the cooperation and support that enabled all the golfers to engage in 'Golf Diplomacy,' she expressed. She also thanked Mr., Pierre Imhof, General Manager of Baiduri Bank, for the generous donation of the challenge trophy and individual trophies for the top ten scorers from each team and the donors for the raffle draw prizes.

Pengiran Dato Hamid, in his concluding remarks, conveyed his gratitude on behalf of the Prime Minister's Office to the members of the Diplomatic Corps for a successful initial

tournament. "The PMO golfers are looking forward to hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament aimed at strengthening the friendly ties and goodwill with the Diplomatic Corps," he said.

The Philippine Embassy in cooperation with the golfers from the Diplomatic and Consular Corps and various government agencies, namely, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Defense, Prime Minister's Office among others, leads in organizing yearly golf tournaments which have proven to be highly effective in bringing diplomats closer to the host government and enhancing contacts and working relationships in Brunei Darussalam.

The continued success of enjoyable and meaningful golf games are mainly attributed to the active participation and full support of the diplomatic corps, honorary consuls, officials from the government, business community and other sectors across the country. END