

# PRESS RELEASE

## Department of Foreign Affairs

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### AMBASSADOR BRILLANTES REACHES OUT TO KABABAYANS IN WINNIPEG

27 July 2007—Philippine Ambassador to Ottawa, Canada Jose S. Brillantes, reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that he together with Minister and Consul General Joseph Gerard B. Angeles, Second Secretary and Consul Rhenita B. Rodriguez and Labor Representative Frank



Luna visited Winnipeg in Manitoba province last 14-18 June. The purpose of the visit was three-fold: 1) to

conduct a community outreach mission for Filipinos and Filipino-Canadians in Winnipeg; 2) to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ambassador's Cup Benefit Golf Tournament organized by the Filipino Golfers Association of Winnipeg; and 3) to join the Order of the Knights of Rizal, Winnipeg Chapter, in its activities to commemorate Dr. Jose Rizal's 146<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.

Ambassador Jose S. Brillantes, 4th from left, with, from left, Labor Representative Frank Luna, 2nd Secretary and Consul Rhenita Rodriguez, Minister and Consul General Joseph Gerard B. Angeles, Honorary Consul Edda Pangilinan and Western Union's J. Ramon 'Chito' Gonzalez, listens intently during the briefing conducted by the Embassy for the Filipino community in Winnipeg.

As with the similar program successfully conducted by the Embassy in Alberta in June 2007, the goals of the Winnipeg community outreach program were: to touch base with the Filipino communities and OFWs in the area; apprise the Filcom and OFWs of the services of the Embassy and the Honorary Consulate General in the province; disseminate information on the Philippine Government's programs for overseas nationals; network with parties interested in doing business in the Philippines; and address the labor- and immigration-related concerns of OFWs in these areas.

The Filipino community in Winnipeg expressed appreciation for the Embassy's effort to reach out to them, the first such Embassy initiative in Winnipeg in recent years. About 100 OFWs and members of the community participated in the briefing conducted by the team from the Embassy at the Pampanga Restaurant on Sunday, 17 June 2007. Also in attendance were Honorary Consul General Edda Pangilinan and Ms. Virginia Guiang, Executive Director of the Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba (PCCM), who spearheads the regular conduct of such briefings for newly arrived migrants in Manitoba under the auspices of the PCCM, as well as media practitioners in Winnipeg, including Mr. Alan Canlas, publisher of *Ang Peryodiko*, Mrs. Linda Cantiveros, editor and publisher of *Filipino Journal* and Mr. Ron Cantiveros of Molave Communications, publisher of *Filipino Bride and Groom*. END