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PCC PND Ball 9th June 2013

Prime Minister and Premier grace Philippine Independence Celebration Featured

Evelyn Zaragoza (/home-mainmenu-1/national-news/itemlist/user/67-evelynzaragoza)

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Prime Minister Julia Gillard and NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell attended the Philippine National Day Ball hosted by the Philippine Community Council of NSW Inc (PCC-NSW, State peak umbrella organisation of Filipino-Australians) at the Grand Pavillion, Rosehill Gardens NSW on 9th June 2013 to celebrate the 115th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence. The presence of the prime minister came as a big surprise at the gala celebration. She was warmly welcomed by the more than 400 guests including government officials from both Australia and the Philippines.

The highlights of the event were the Ceremonial Toast to the President of the Republic of the Philippines and to the Filipino people by the guest of honour, Prime Minister Gillard and the Rigodon de Honour dance participated in by community leaders and choreographed by Novy Bereber. Consul General Anne Jalando-on Louis, representing the Republic of the Philippines, also proposed a toast to the Queen and to the people of Australia. Musical numbers were presented by guest performers - international artist David Pomeranz, Sydney-based Filipino-Australian artists Louie George, Ani Luzung and Meera Belle and a dance performance by The Philippine Dance Ensemble. The Sydney Sonata Singers conducted by Loy Tagudin sang the Philippine and Australian national anthems and Tyrone Andres representing the Filipino youth gave the invocation before the program commenced. Compere Rod Dingle ably attended to the formalities and ensured the proceedings were in order. All night dancing followed with Sonny Soriano and the Inner Games Band.

3 round-trip Philippine Airlines tickets from Sydney to Manila were given away in a raffle draw and another return ticket as a door prize compliments of Philippine Airlines, Travel Access and Zignal Travel. Major and Event sponsors of the historic occasion are: MoneyGram and MegaWorld.

The Philippine National Day Ball is an annual activity of PCC-NSW to pay tribute to the heroes of the Philippine revolution who risked their lives for freedom and democracy. The Independence Day Ball had been attended by NSW Premiers Bob Carr, Nathan Rees and recently by Barry O’Farrell. This is the first time a prime minister attended this national day event. Early Filipino migrants state that this is the first ever attendance of a prime minister in a Filipino community event. Headed this year by Dr Elsa Ringor Collado, PCC-NSW focused on the theme “Kapit Bisig sa Matuwid na Daan” (linking arms in the right direction). She said “We believe that walking together in the spirit of reconciliation, friendship and tolerance, can create a much conducive atmosphere for us to function as the peak body, and to work hand in hand with our Affiliates”.



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DIGITAL EDITION



RAISING THE RED FLAG AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING & TERRORISM FINANCING

Special report by Mars Cavendish
Editors Note: As we go to the press for this, the November-December issue, the news of Australian Weapac, bank's involvement in the age-old problem of money laundering, especially that it concerns the Philippines, because they allegedly abetted the resurgence of Australian paedophile operations in the Philippines, has caught our attention. Weapac's bank management has been accused of running a blind eye and doing cases while being unknowingly or wilfully allowing themselves to be used to finance the atrocious business of child exploitation.

Meanwhile, a Courtroom Financing (CTF) Summit has been conducted in Manila in November 2019 gathering financial intelligence experts and theorists from all over the world with the common goal of expanding its scope and reach beyond the normal counting terrorist financing efforts as well.

Hana Laan wins SBS Community Language Competition

SBS Radio announced the winners of the SBS National Languages Competition 2019 – a nationwide initiative celebrating a love of learning languages and language education in Australia. The competition received nearly 3000 entries from all states and territories, spanning 90 languages, including Indonesian, German, Japanese and Arabic. In the 15th International Year of Indigenous Languages, the competition also received more submissions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages than ever before.

The winners were selected across five age categories based on their unique stories and creative approach.

Winners are:

- 16-18, Bangla: Hana Laan, VIC (Age 13-15, French)
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- 16-18, Bangla: Hana Laan, VIC (Age 13-15, French)

Migration Alliance welcomes the release of two new Regional (Provisional) Subclass 494 and 491 visas

Employers naturally felt a pinch when 216 occupations were removed from the Skilled Occupation List on 17 April 2019 upon the announcement that the 457 visa was being abolished.

This left employers with handful of occupations which were further split into two segregated lists, the Short-term Skilled Occupation List (STSOL) with no access to permanent residence, as well as more restrictive New Medium and

Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL) which allows permanent residence provided the occupation is most susceptible to supply constraints (e.g. due to the time taken to develop necessary skills) and/or most likely to warrant Australian Government intervention to address these constraints.

Nonetheless, this was all part of a well-planned reform to bring Australian immigration system into the 21st century.

The fact remains that most migrants choose to settle in Sydney or Melbourne. However, regional areas continue to struggle to find suitably skilled workers.

For example, the regional population of New South Wales is 2.6 million. The critical skills shortage is acute across the all States, particularly in occupation List (STSOL) with no access to permanent residence, as well as more restrictive New Medium and

to nominate workers for permanent residence is extremely difficult to achieve. The new individual 187 visa had no conditions attached to it, meaning an employer was free to leave the regional area should they choose to do so. From 1 April 2019, if faced with cancellation, the set-aside rate of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for 187 visa cancellations is almost double by comparison to the standard set-aside rate of 35%.

was a clear indication that one regional migration program was not delivering the desired results.

The solution came with the introduction of two provisional regional visa with a clear pathway to two permanent residence visas (subclass 494 and subclass 491).

Employer Nominations Scheme is in excess of 12 months whereas General Skilled Migration visas receive a little as 100 invitations per month).

The incentives for migrants to stay in regional

by Home Affairs securing skilled workers will be available at a much faster rate in comparison to standard skilled migration programs (the average time processing time for subclass 186 visa is in excess of 12 months whereas General Skilled Migration visas receive a little as 100 invitations per month).

The incentives for migrants to stay in regional

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