

## **Philippine Embassy, FilCom Leaders Address Various Issues in Quarterly Dialogue**

The Philippine Embassy in Amman conducted its first dialogue of the year with the leaders of the Filipino community on 18 February 2022. The meeting was led by Ambassador Akmad Atlah Sakkam and other Embassy officials, and attended by 11 leaders of various Filipino community organizations.

The quarterly dialogue is conducted by the Embassy to give both sides an opportunity to address their most pressing issues and find ways to collaborate on projects and initiatives that will benefit the Filipino community.

Among the topics discussed were the following:

1. Results of the Embassy's meeting with the Association of Jordanian Recruitment Agencies (AJRA)
2. IATF Resolution on the Entry of overseas Filipinos to the Philippines
3. Overseas Absentee Voting from 10 April to 09 May 2022
4. Global Online Appointment System (GOAS)
5. Commemoration of the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Jordan
6. Celebration of the Philippine Independence Day on June 12, 2022
7. Updates from the Filipino community

The meeting also served as a good opportunity for the newly arrived Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) Labor Attaché Armi Evangel Peña and Assistant Labor Attaché Jaybee John Vincent Baginda to be introduced to the leaders. LabAtt Peña shared the good news about the passage into law of the Republic Act 11641 creating the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). She also reiterated the importance of collaboration with the Filipino community towards fulfilling POLO's duties and mandates.

Also present during the meeting were International Organization for Migration (IOM) officials Ms. Alina Mihai and Dr. Manal Mahmoud Ali, Migration Health Physician, who discussed the updates about the Embassy and IOM's partnership for Filipino migrant workers in the Kingdom, particularly the undocumented, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

After the discussions, Embassy officials then responded to a number of questions raised by the attendees, including processes for consular services, schedule of consular outreach, and the Embassy's Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) services.

Towards the end of the meeting, Ambassador Sakkam thanked the attendees for their cooperation and reminded them that the dialogue will be conducted quarterly to maintain open communication between the Embassy and the Filipino community. He further stressed the need to synchronize the efforts of the Embassy and Filipino community leaders and members, especially in promptly reporting various cases of distressed Filipinos.

*"Ang pakiusap namin, always come to us. Katulad sa ganitong dialogue, dalhin ninyo sa amin [ang problema] promptly, so that we can also act timely,"* Ambassador Sakkam remarked. END





18 FEBRUARY 2022

# PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, FILCOM LEADERS ADDRESS VARIOUS ISSUES IN QUARTERLY DIALOGUE



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