



Ambassador Azucena welcomes Senior Usec. Irineo C. Espino Jr. and members of DND delegation to the PH-NZ Bilateral Defense Talks

Ambassador Kira Azucena welcomed Department of National Defense Senior Undersecretary Irineo C Espino Jr. and the Philippine Delegation to the 6th Philippines-New Zealand Bilateral Talks (BDT) held in Wellington.

The Philippine Delegation was composed of officials of the Philippine Department of National Defense and the Philippine Embassy in Wellington, and they met with their counterparts at the New Zealand Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the biennial defense talks, a bilateral mechanism for the two sides to exchange views and discuss ways of expanding cooperation in the field of defense and security.

[Read more](#)



Philippine Embassy in New Zealand holds 3rd Filipino Community General Assembly

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand successfully held its annual General Assembly with the Filipino community in New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tonga on 25 February 2026 via the Zoom platform. The 3rd Filipino Community General Assembly brought

together community leaders, organization representatives, and individual members in the countries under the Embassy's jurisdiction.

[Read more](#)



**Ambassador Azucena
discusses priorities and**

deliverables of PH's ASEAN chairship at ANZBC 2026 Kickstarter Event

The Philippines as ASEAN Chair in 2026 will continue to work towards the collective goal of a region that is resilient, innovative and dynamic, with the well-being of our people at the center.

Ambassador Kira Christianne D. Azucena said under the Philippines' chairship, peace and security remain the anchors as ASEAN expands and creates new prosperity corridors through people empowerment. This work will remain grounded on the values central to ASEAN's spirit: adherence to international law, cooperation, dialogue, inclusivity, mutual respect, sustainability, with ASEAN at the center and fully utilizing ASEAN-led mechanisms.

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Embassy Mobile Consular Outreach Team completes first mission of 2026 in Invercargill

The Embassy Mobile Consular Outreach Team successfully completed its first outreach mission for the year 2026 in Invercargill. The event, held from February 20-22, 2026, at the Invercargill Workingmen's Club Inc., 154 Esk Street, Invercargill, provided vital consular services to the Filipino community in the area.

[Read more](#)

Other news



Philippine Embassy conducts art workshop with Filipino youth for National Arts Month

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand organized an art workshop titled "*Nature Patterns: An Art Workshop on Drawing and Stylization Inspired by the Art Practice of Abdulmari Asia Imao Sr., National Artist for Visual Arts*" on 27 February 2026 at Victoria University of Wellington in celebration of National Arts Month.

[Read more](#)

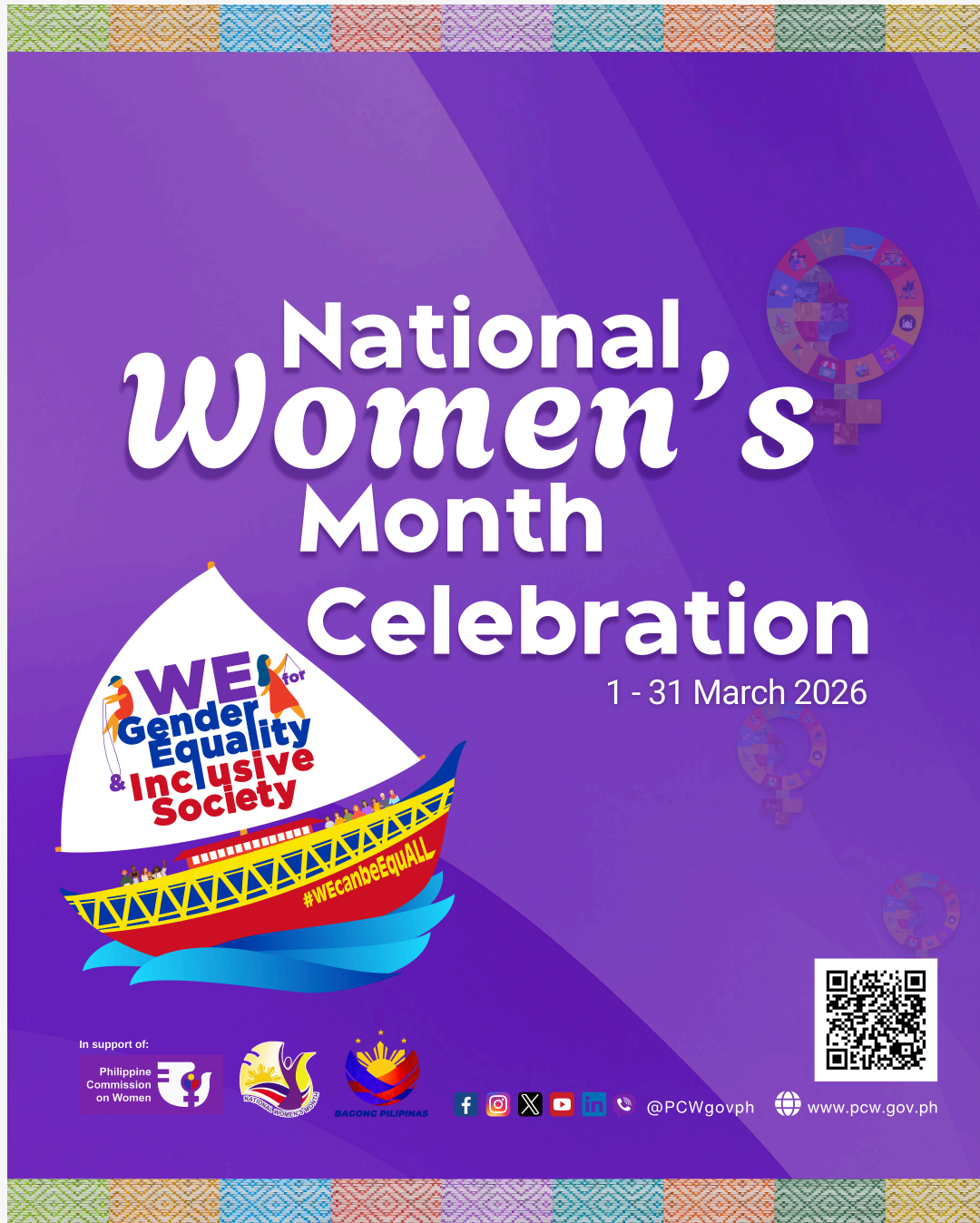


Philippine Embassy in New Zealand supports Filipino artist during the Wellington Art Show

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand, led by Ambassador Kira Christianne D. Azucena, extended its full support to Mr. JM Beltran, a Filipino artist based in Wellington, during the opening night of the Wellington Art Show on 27 February 2026 at the Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Read more

What's happening this March



The poster features a purple background with a decorative border at the top and bottom consisting of colorful geometric patterns. The main text is in white and yellow. A large female symbol is on the right, and a sailboat is on the left. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

National Women's Month Celebration

1 - 31 March 2026

WE for Gender Equality & Inclusive Society

#WEcanbeEQUAL

In support of:

- Philippine Commission on Women
- Department of Women's Protection and Empowerment
- BAGONG PILIPINAS

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This March, the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand joins the celebration of National Women's Month under the theme "**WE for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society**", with the empowering call to action: "**Lead like the Babaylans, Filipinas!**"

Here are some remarkable milestones and achievements that highlight the country's leadership in fostering gender equality:

According to the *World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022*, the Philippines ranks as one of the most gender-equal countries in Asia and the Pacific, consistently maintaining its position over the years as a model for closing gender gaps.

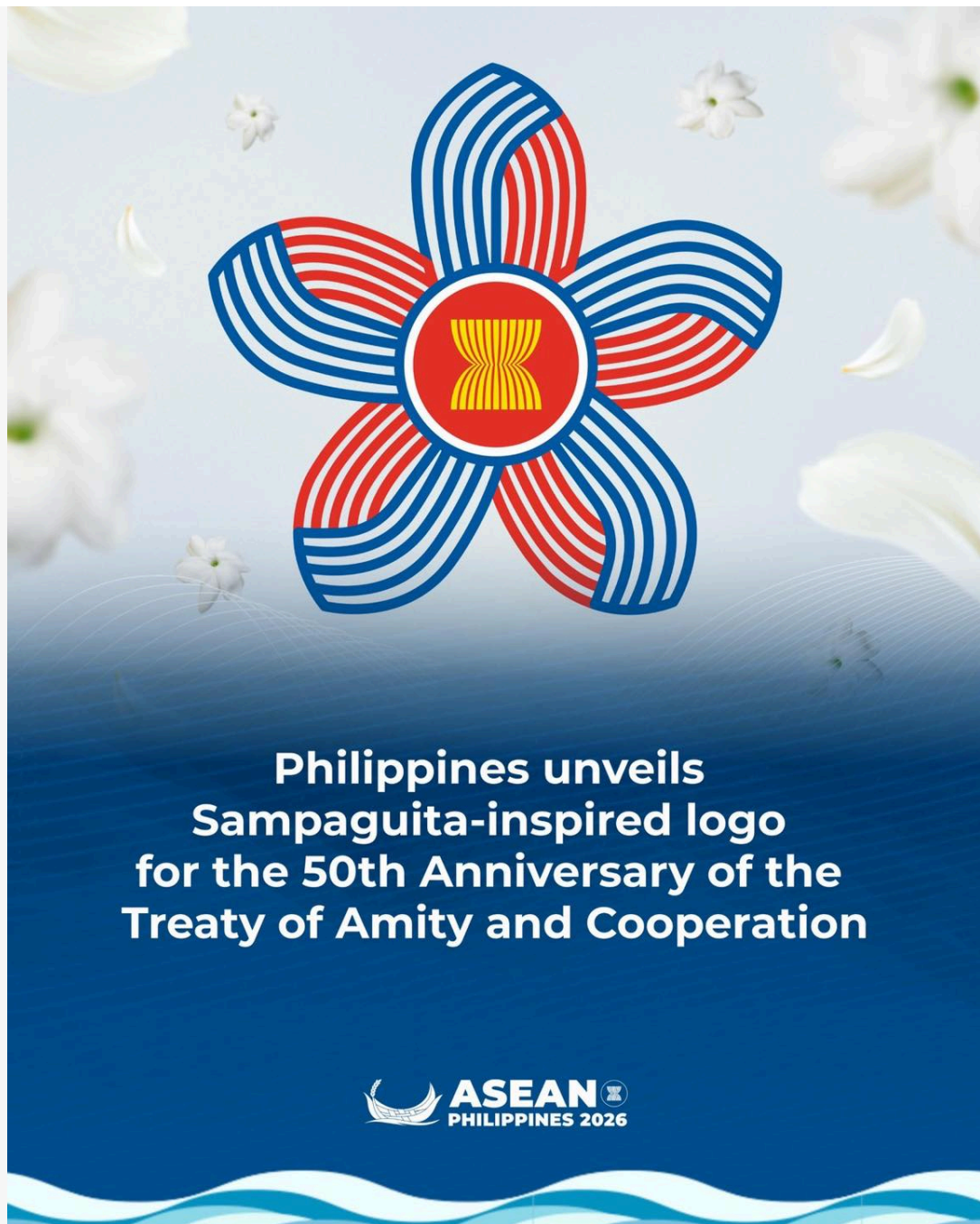
The *Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710)* isn't just about protection; it's also a mandate for gender balance in government! Passed in 2009, this law aims for a 50-50 gender representation in all third-level government positions, committees, and councils, boosting women's roles in decision-making.

The Philippines is among the few countries in the world with a strong tradition of female leadership, having seen two women presidents (Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) and a history of community leadership modeled after "Babaylans"—pre-colonial female spiritual leaders revered for their wisdom and authority.

Please visit the Embassy Facebook and Instagram accounts for the latest updates on these events.

ASEAN Corner

This section is dedicated to providing information and updates on the Philippines' chairship of ASEAN in 2026.



The Philippines, as part of its ASEAN 2026 Chairship, has unveiled the official Sampaguita-inspired logo for the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The Treaty was first signed on 24 February 1976 in Bali, Indonesia by the five founding Member States of ASEAN, establishing a framework that promotes mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes, and the renunciation of the threat or use of force.

[Know more](#)

Consular 101

This space is all about answering your frequently asked questions on passports, birth, marriage, and death registrations, dual citizenship, and other consular matters.



Question: Juana Abad, a married woman, initially chose to use her husband's surname, "Reyes," in her Philippine passport after their marriage. However, after a few years, Juana decided to revert to her maiden name, "Abad." She is currently renewing her passport. What steps must Juana take to revert to her maiden name, and what

restrictions should she be aware of under the *New Philippine Passport Act (Republic Act No. 11983)*?

Answer: Under the *New Philippine Passport Act (Republic Act No. 11983)*, Juana Abad can revert to her maiden name, "Abad," during her passport renewal. Here's what she needs to keep in mind and the steps she must follow:

Steps:

1. **Document alignment:** Juana must ensure all her other identification documents (e.g., Philippine Statistics Authority record, marriage certificate, and government-issued IDs) reflect her maiden name before proceeding with her passport renewal. This ensures consistency across all official documents.
2. **Renewal application:** Juana needs to apply for a passport renewal through the DFA or its Foreign Service Posts. During the application process, she must submit supporting documents that confirm her maiden name (e.g., her birth certificate).
3. **Compliance with reversion limit:** Since the law states that a woman is allowed to revert to her maiden name **only once**, Juana should be certain about her decision. Future reversion back to her husband's surname (or any additional changes) will not be permitted.

Key Restrictions:

- Juana can only exercise this reversion one time over the course of her passport validity timeline.
- If she had chosen to keep her maiden name from the beginning, there would've been no need to take steps to revert.
- The choice to revert is voluntary but needs to align with other updated documents for legal consistency.

By following this process, Juana will successfully have her passport reflect her maiden name, "Abad," and comply with the provisions of RA 11983.

Consular services



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Embassy of the Philippines

50 Hobson St. Thorndon, Wellington
New Zealand

Operating hours: 9:00AM to 3:00PM

wellington.pe@philembassy.org.nz

Trunkline: (+644) 8903741 to 44

Migrant Workers Office

Tel: (+644) 2601161



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