



Kia ora kabayan!

The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand

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#UBESERYE

This #FilipinoFoodMonth, we're excited to present #UBESERYE, showcasing stories of Filipino entrepreneurs in New Zealand who proudly feature ube as a highlight of their menus. Through this series, we celebrate not only the vibrant flavor of ube but also the talented Filipinos who continue to share and preserve Filipino culture through their culinary creations.



Ube takes center stage in Philippine Embassy's Ube Serye in New Zealand

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand successfully concluded its Ube Serye in celebration of Filipino Food Month highlighting the global love for ube, a cherished ingredient in Filipino cuisine.

[Read more](#)



Embassy Holds Meet and Greet with the Filipino Community in Napier, New Zealand

The Philippine Embassy, led by Ambassador Kira Christianne D. Azucena, together with the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) Wellington, held a Meet-and-Greet with the Filipino Community in Hawke's Bay on 18 April at the Taradale Club in Napier. The Meet-and-Greet was held in conjunction with the Embassy's scheduled Mobile Consular Outreach Mission in Napier.

[Read more](#)

Other news



In solidarity during ANZAC Day

Ambassador Kira Christianne Azucena paid tribute to the fallen Australian and New Zealand soldiers who served during World War II on the ANZAC Day commemorations organized by the New Zealand government at the Pukeahu National War Memorial.

[Read more](#)



Embassy Conducts Mobile Consular Services in Napier

The Embassy successfully held its Mobile Consular Outreach Mission in Napier at the Taradale Club on Wharerangi Road. The mission was conducted from April 17 to April 19, providing vital consular services to the local Filipino community in the area.

[Read more](#)



Philippine Embassy in New Zealand holds first RERB Hearing for the 2028 National Elections

The Philippine Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand, Resident Election Registration Board (RERB) convened on 20 April 2026 at Sentro Rizal, 50 Hobson Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, for its first RERB Hearing.

[Read more](#)



First Filipino Martial Arts Tournament takes place in Wellington

The first Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) Tournament was held in Wellington on 11 April 2026 at the Akau Tangi Sports Center, showcasing "Arnis" (Filipino Stick fighting) sparring. The tournament was organized by the Philippine Martial Arts Association in New Zealand (PHILMAA NZ), in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy in Wellington and the organizers of the Pistang Pilipino 2026.

[Read more](#)

What's happening this May



Filipino Heritage Month

The Philippine Embassy in Wellington warmly joins the celebration of National Heritage Month this May. In line with the festivities, we are pleased to share the official poster prepared by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts for National Heritage Month 2026, bearing the theme: "Roots and Horizons: Our Shared Heritage, Our Collective Future."



Mobile Consular Mission in Auckland

The Philippine Embassy is set to hold its third Mobile Consular Outreach Mission for the year in Auckland from May 22 to 24, 2026. The event will take place at Danish House, 6 Rockridge Avenue Penrose (May 22-23) and Pioneer Women's Hall, Ellen Melville Centre 2 Freyberg Place, Auckland CBD. It will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

JOIN US



PHILIPPINES-NEW ZEALAND BUSINESS FORUM

Monday, 25 May 2026
From 02:00PM to 04:00PM
Bank of New Zealand, Level 18
BNZ Building, 80 Queen St., Auckland

This curated forum presents the Philippines as a strategic partner for New Zealand firms looking to scale and innovate – particularly across **IT-BPM and healthcare management**.

Organized by
Philippine Embassy in New Zealand & Philippine Trade and Investment Center – Sydney

WHY ATTEND

- Access **world-class, English-proficient talent** with strong cultural alignment
- Build **cost-efficient, scalable operations**
- Leverage a **mature IT-BPM ecosystem** supported by robust infrastructure and government incentives
- Explore partnerships across **customer experience, IT services, finance, and healthcare delivery**

FEATURED PHILIPPINE COMPANIES

- Genfinity
- ISSI Corp.
- Pointwest Technologies
- IBPAP
- HIMAP

In collaboration with

- New Zealand Philippines Business Council
- Auckland Business Chamber
- bnz

In partnership with

- IBPAP
- HIMAP

RSVP by 20 May 2026 via QR Code or through this link [Philippine Business Forum in Auckland](#) or contact June/Pia at sydney@dti.gov.ph

We look forward to welcoming you and fostering meaningful Philippines-New Zealand business partnerships!

Philippines-New Zealand Business Forum

This curated forum, to be held on 25 May 2026 in Auckland, will present the Philippines as a strategic partner for New Zealand firms looking to scale and innovate – particularly across IT-BPM and healthcare management.

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

ASEAN Corner

This is your go-to spot for fascinating tidbits about ASEAN and the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN in 2026!



The upcoming 48th ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings will be held in Cebu, Philippines, from May 6–8, 2026. Centered in Lapu-Lapu City, this significant gathering will focus on pressing regional issues, including the impacts of the Middle East crisis, energy and food security, and enhancing regional stability. This streamlined and "business-like" summit is expected to bring together approximately 20,000 delegates and include the presence of around 10,000 security personnel. Key sessions will feature discussions among ASEAN leaders, emphasizing economic collaboration and sustainable development across member nations.

The ASEAN Summit is the primary policy-making body of ASEAN, comprising 11 Southeast Asian countries. Held biannually, the summit provides a platform for heads of state and government to discuss regional and international challenges, set organizational priorities, and foster economic, political-security, and socio-cultural cooperation. It also serves as an avenue for dialogues with ASEAN's external partners, addressing global issues and advancing stability and prosperity in the broader Asia-Pacific region. The ASEAN Summit is instrumental in shaping policies that strengthen integration and collaboration among member states.

[Know more](#)

Overseas Voting Bulletin



Ongoing Overseas Voter Registration for the 2028 National Elections

As part of the Embassy's continuous commitment to voter accessibility, Overseas Voter (OV) registration is still ongoing. Filipino citizens are encouraged to register in preparation for the 2028 National Elections or update their voter information. Applicants need to bring a valid Philippine passport or a Dual Citizenship Identification Certificate.

[Click here](#)

Consular 101

This is your one-stop hub for important updates, helpful tips, and everything you need to know about the Embassy's consular services.



Q1: Anna, a Balikbayan, and her husband, David (a foreign national), are planning to visit the Philippines in June. Can David enter the country visa-free without Anna traveling with him?

Answer: No, David cannot avail of the visa-free privilege as the spouse of a Balikbayan if he is traveling alone, provided he has no other visa-free entry privileges into the Philippines. To use this specific privilege, a foreign national spouse (such as David) must travel together with the Balikbayan (Anna) to qualify for visa-free entry to the Philippines.

Q2: Kate, a retired Filipino citizen who now holds New Zealand citizenship, is planning to revisit the Philippines as a Balikbayan. What documents should she present to immigration upon arrival?

Answer: Kate must present the following:

- A passport valid for at least 6 months after her intended stay in the Philippines,
- A round-trip ticket, and
- Proof of her former Philippine citizenship, such as an old Philippine passport or a PSA-authenticated birth certificate.

Q3: Maria, a former Filipina, plans to bring her minor daughter, who holds a New Zealand passport, to the Philippines under the Balikbayan Program. What evidence should Maria provide to prove their relationship?

Answer: Maria must present her daughter's birth certificate, showing Maria as the parent. This will verify that her daughter qualifies for the visa-free privilege as the immediate family member of a Balikbayan.

Consular services



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