

ASEAN FESTIVAL 2019 IS A SUCCESS IN NAIROBI

Nairobi – The ASEAN-Nairobi Committee, under the chairmanship of the Philippines, successfully celebrated the 4th ASEAN Festival in Village Market in Nairobi on 8 September 2019 with the attendance of the diplomatic corps, Kenyans and expatriates alike.

In his opening remarks, Philippine Ambassador Alex G. Chua shared that the best way to bridge gaps among peoples is through culture, and with the festival turnout, the event was certainly a resounding cultural and gastronomical success.

The day-long festivities saw a variety of performances from the four ASEAN Missions in Nairobi with traditional and modern dance numbers from the Philippines, interactive Indonesian angklung sessions with the audience, a cultural re-enactment of a traditional Malaysian wedding, live cooking demonstrations from three Thai chefs exclusively flown from Thailand, and the victory drum performance of the Thai Peacekeepers in the UN Mission in South Sudan.

Each Mission offered native delicacies such as chicken adobo, pad thai, nasi lemak and chicken satay which the public heartily sampled.

The day culminated with a colorful fashion show involving all ASEAN Missions featuring different traditional attires to loud cheers and applause from the spectators.

The proudly Filipino *Imbento Band* provided live musical numbers and sustained the high energy atmosphere to which the audience danced to as the day wore on.

There were also periodic raffle draws with each Mission offering a grand prize, which included a round-trip business class ticket to Manila courtesy of Oman Air, and a round-trip ticket to Bali.

This is the fourth consecutive year of the ASEAN Festival. The ASEAN-Nairobi Committee aims to hold the event every September, one month from the ASEAN Day celebration in August, to inculcate in the consciousness of the host country's people that September is the month wherein they can experience good food, great music and the vibrant culture of ASEAN.

More photos and videos of the fun-filled 4th ASEAN Festival can be found at the Missions' Facebook pages:

Philippine Embassy in Kenya (@PHLinKenya)
KBRI Nairobi (The Indonesian Embassy – Nairobi)
Malawakil Nairobi
Royal Thai Embassy, Nairobi



The ASEAN-Nairobi Committee walks through the booths of the Missions offering delicious native food and traditional handicrafts. In the photo, dishes at the booth of the High Commission of Malaysia.



Philippine Embassy personnel demonstrate the tinikling to members of the audience.



The Thai Peacekeepers in the UN Mission in South Sudan performed the Victory Drum dance, which is done to signal army movement in battle in the olden days and to celebrate battle victory.



The Indonesian interactive angklung session counted with the participation of the audience who enthusiastically learned how to play famous African songs, Jambo Bwana and Malaika.



ASEAN Heads of Missions and their spouses thank the audience at the end of the fashion show