

## Filipinos in Nairobi Celebrate the 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Philippine Independence



*Ambassador Chua delivering his welcome remarks*

Nairobi, Kenya, 09 June 2019- The Philippine Embassy together with the Filipinos in Nairobi, weathered the drizzle and light rain of Kenyan winter as they celebrated the 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence at the Chancery of the Republic of the Philippines in 001 Mzima Springs Road, Lavington, Nairobi, Kenya.

More than 150 Filipinos, their families and friends shared in the fun and festivities of the day, which began with a simple mass celebrated in Filipino by Father Eustaquio “TQ” Mula.

For entertainment, Imbento Band, the resident Filipino Band in Nairobi, sustained the celebratory mood with their Filipino sound for the entire event interspersed with dance performances.

While modern and pop dance numbers were rendered by the Filipino community, the personnel of Nairobi PE provided a contrast with their more traditional *malong* dance to the tune of *Piliin Mo Ang Pilipinas*. An African Youth Dance Corps was also invited by the FilCom to perform during the occasion.



Ms. Bernadette Camañag-Umayan being given the Golden Sandok by Madamme Marie Marla Chua



Another highlight of the event was the crowning of Ms. Bernadette Camañag-Umayan as the 2019 Adobo Queen. The Embassy launched the search for the Adobo King/Queen and received 6 entries which were judged on the criteria of taste, presentation and originality. Ms. Umayan won with her *Adobo Chavacano* entry



*Raffle winner Mr. Eric Rivera shaking the hands of Amb. Chua with Oman Air Representative looking on.*

The jovial mood was enhanced by the raffle draw, whose grand prize is a Business Class Return Airfare to Manila courtesy of Oman Air. Ms. Peggy Macharia, representative of Oman Air, drew the name of Mr. Eric Rivera, a Filipino contract worker who recently became a father of a baby girl, enthusiastically appreciated the auspicious timing of the free ticket.

The final highpoint of the event was the anticipated commemoration of Father's Day, as the community honored fathers, who are the "*haligi ng tahanan*" of Filipino society in Nairobi, with flowers and chocolates.



Family Picture of the Filipino community in Nairobi

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