

## **FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN NAIROBI KICKS OFF 2019 SPORTS FEST**

Nairobi – The Embassy of the Philippines in Nairobi attended the opening ceremony of the 2019 Sports Fest organized by Filipino Community in Kenya on 14 July 2019 at the Hekima University College sports grounds in Nairobi.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Alex G. Chua emphasized that the event is not only to win at games but also to promote sportsmanship and camaraderie among the Filipinos, as well as to showcase Filipino excellence in sports.

Filipino priest Eric Lacandula, who previously served in Tanzania before transferring to Kenya in 2017, led the mass at the College Chapel. The College Chapel cornerstone was blessed by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1985.

Hekima College is a Jesuit school of theology in Nairobi, affiliated with the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. It opened in 1984 mainly as a seminary for Jesuits studying to be priests, and has since then greatly expanded.

Four teams will compete in basketball and volleyball over the course of several weekends before heading to the championship.

There are around 340 Filipinos in Kenya who are mostly professionals, affiliated with the United Nations or religious missionaries.



*Ambassador Alex G. Chua during his opening remarks at the 2019 Sports Fest in Nairobi on 14 July 2019*



*The Filipino Community in Kenya take their oath of sportsmanship.*



*Ambassador Alex G. Chua led the ceremonial ball toss to mark the start of the 2019 Sports Fest*