

PRESS RELEASE

BEIRUT PE AND FILCOM IN LEBANON CELEBRATES 115TH PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY



14 June 2013 – The Philippine Embassy in Lebanon, together with the attached agencies, POLO and OWWA, and their respective families celebrated the 115th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence with the officers and members of the different Filipino community groups in Lebanon on Sunday, 09 June 2013. It was held at 8:00 in the morning at the new Embassy's function hall in Hadath, Baabda, Mount Lebanon.

The event started with the singing of the Philippine national anthem led by Mrs. Mel Mancenido, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Philippine Flag led by Mr. Edwin Batallones.

In her brief remarks, Philippine Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz highlighted the theme of the 2013 Independence Day commemoration “Ambagan tungo sa Malawakang Kaunlaran” and then read the Independence Day message of President Benigno S. Aquino III. Vice Consul Dennis John Briones read the message of DFA Secretary Albert F. del Rosario while the new Labor Attaché Bulyok Nilong read the message of DOLE Secretary Rosalinda D. Baldoz.

After the short program, everyone partook of a simple traditional breakfast *salosalo* consisting of *pan de sal* with corned beef, *pancit*, coffee and juice. At least 80 Filipino community leaders and members attended the morning event. **END**