

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HOLDS A CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER WITH LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN LEBANON**



*Welfare Officer Imelda Gatinao leads an ecumenical prayer at the start of the Christmas get-together*



*Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz delivers her message*

18 December 2013 – On Sunday, 15 December 2013, the Philippine Embassy held a Christmas get-together with the leaders and members of the various Filipino community organizations in Lebanon. There are currently 45 Filipino community associations in Lebanon. At the start of the Christmas get-together, Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz delivered a welcome message during which she conveyed her greetings for the holiday season. Ambassador Ruiz also thanked the leaders and members of various Filipino community organizations in Lebanon not only for attending the get-together but most importantly, for their cooperation with the Philippine Embassy in the implementation of its various programs and activities. Ambassador Ruiz also expressed her hope that they will extend the same support and cooperation next year especially as the Embassy planned to hold major cultural events for the year 2014.

The Christmas get-together included discussions by the Embassy and POLO/OWWA officials on the implementation of the Embassy's contingency plan, cultural events for next year, the OWWA "Cash-for-Work" assistance program, which benefits OWWA members and their dependents who are victims of typhoon Yolanda, and the POLO's Reintegration Seminar. POLO/OWWA officials also took the opportunity to thank the Filipino community for their assistance and support in the implementation of its labor and welfare program and also announced its activities for next year. At the end of the get-together, the attendees were treated with traditional Filipino food namely pansit, biko and turon. At least 100 Filipinos flocked to the Embassy to attend the event. **END**