



**Dasugan ng Pilipinas • Embassy of the Philippines  
Canberra**



**LTR - 311 - 2016**

18 July 2016

Dear Mr. Parian,

I am pleased to send you my message for the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Barrio Fiesta of the Filipino Australian Association of the Northern Territory (FAANT) Incorporated on 03 to 04 September 2016.

Thank you for coming to the Filipino community meeting last 22 June 2016 where I met you and our *kababayans* in Darwin. I look forward to visiting the Northern Territory again in the future and to strengthen our interaction and engagement with the Filipino-Australian community and the Northern Territory State Government.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

  
**MINDA CALAGUIAN-CRUZ**  
Ambassador

**Mr. OSCAR PARIAN**

President, FAANT Inc.

[president@faantinc.com.au](mailto:president@faantinc.com.au)

Cc : *Honorary Consul General John Rivas, Darwin PCG*

## MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the Filipino Australian Association of the Northern Territory (FAANT) and all your guests on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Barrio Fiesta.

I share your organization's mission to foster friendly relations between the Philippines and Australia. The Northern Territory holds a special place in the history of Philippines-Australia bilateral relations. The small group of Filipinos who came to the Northern Territory as divers and processors of pearl shells are part of the first wave of Filipino migrants in the late 1800's who became known as the *Manilamen*. Even in World War II, our people stood side-by-side with the Australians in the liberation efforts for the Philippines. We also recall how 16 Filipino mariners gave up their lives during the bombing of Darwin in February 1942. Their bravery has been honoured by a commemorative plaque which stands at the Darwin Military Museum.



The Filipinos in the Northern Territory and the rest of Australia today continue the tradition of positively contributing to the Australian society and to nation-building back in the Philippines. As we mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Australia this year, we also celebrate your personal stories of love, sacrifice, and kinship that are part and parcel of the long history of friendship between our peoples.

I encourage you to continue with your excellent work in preserving and promoting our rich cultural heritage for the appreciation of the Australian society at large and for the benefit of future generations of Filipino-Australians. I look forward to more interaction with the Filipino community in the Northern Territory and the State Government, academe and other groups in the Territory.

I wish you a successful and enjoyable event!

*Mabuhay!*

  
**H.E. MINDA CALAGUYAN-CRUZ**  
Philippine Ambassador to Australia

03 September 2016