

Calls on Filipino community to Support the SAVE Act Campaign



NEW YORK – His Excellency Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., new Philippine Ambassador to the United States, made a oneday visit to New York City on 18 May 2011 and met with the Filipino community, with members of the media and with the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce (PACC), at events hosted by The Hon. Mario L. de Leon, Jr. Consul General of the Philippines in New York at the Philippine Center.

In his meeting with Mr. Andoni Yturralde and Mr. John Howley, Chairman of the Board and past President of PACC, respectively, Ambassador Cuisia assured PACC that he would cooperate closely with them in promoting more vibrant Philippines-U.S. trade relations and in attracting more U.S. investments in the Philippines. PACC, in turn, informed the Ambassador of its plan to soon organize a meeting between him and the top CEOs in New York. PACC, founded in 1920, is one of the oldest chambers of commerce in the U.S.

Ambassador Cuisia also met with the members of the Filipino-American media. He shared with them the threepillars of Philippine foreign policy under the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III, namely economic diplomacy, national security and assistance to nationals.

To cap his visit in New York, Ambassador Cuisia attended the Filipino community reception hosted in his honor by Consul General Mario L. de Leon, Jr. at the Philippine Center's Kalayaan Hall. Around 90 community leaders from the tri-state area of New York and New Jersey

attended the reception. In his remarks Ambassador Cuisia acknowledged the various projects and initiatives that they have funded and supported in the Philippines, such as disaster relief and assistance, scholarship programs, housing projects and medical missions. He thanked them for their generosity and for their role in helping bring social progress in the country. He also commended the community for undertaking activities promoting Philippine culture, tradition and heritage. The Ambassador invited the community to support the the 6th Ambassador, Consuls General and Tourism Director Tour to the Philippines 17-23 July 2011; and the campaign for the passage of SAVE Our Industries Act – which aims to eliminate import duties on apparel products from the Philippines that are made of US-made fabrics.

At the end of his remarks, Ambassador Cuisia assured the Filipino community of the commitment of the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC and all the Philippine Consulates General to continue to provide and improve the delivery of their consular services to them. He said that these offices would also work closely with them to promote their rights, welfare and interests in the US. He encouraged the Filipino community to unite and bond together in order to empower themselves and become a potent and influential ethnic group in the US. He urged the Filipino-Americans to register as US voters and make a difference by casting their votes during US elections. END.