



Philippine books find new home in Wellington as Embassy opens second Filipiñana Corner in New Zealand

Philippine literature, culture, and heritage found a new home in the capital as the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand opened its second *Te*

Kokonga Filipiñana (Filipiñana Corner) at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui (Wellington Central Library) on 12 September 2026.

At the ceremony formally opening *Te Kokonga Filipiñana* Wellington, Philippine Ambassador Kira Christianne D. Azucena highlighted that the Filipiñana Corner is more than a dedicated space for Philippine books but a space where people can discover and develop a deeper appreciation of the Philippines not only through its books and historical narratives, but also through the voices, experiences, and stories of Filipinos themselves.

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PH, NZ Sign Cooperation Agreement on Climate and Environmental Cooperation

Ambassador Kira Christianne D. Azucena witnessed today the signing of the Memorandum of Arrangement on Climate Change and Environment Cooperation between the Philippines and New Zealand by New Zealand Minister for Climate Change Hon. Simon Watts at the New Zealand Parliament.

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First Pinoy quiz night in Aotearoa showcases battle of wits celebrating Filipino culture

.Filipino students, young professionals and second-generation Kiwinoys and their families came together in Wellington on 18 September 2026 for a battle of wits on all things Filipino for the inaugural Patalasan sa Aotearoa: Pinoy Quiz Night.

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Other news



Ambassador Azucena Highlights Philippines-New Zealand Partnership at Global Cities New Zealand

Ambassador Kira Christianne D. Azucena participated in a panel discussion titled “New Geographic Frontiers” alongside the High Commissioner of India at the Global Cities New Zealand Conference in Christchurch.

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Ambassador Kira Azucena joins ASEAN–New Zealand Vision Fund Launch

Ambassador Kira Christianne D. Azucena participated in the launch of the ASEAN–New Zealand Vision Fund, an initiative aimed at strengthening cooperation and deepening the longstanding partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and New Zealand.

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Philippine Embassy in Wellington successfully concludes Mobile Consular Mission in Rarotonga, Cook Islands

The Philippine Embassy in Wellington successfully conducted its Mobile Consular Mission in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 18-20 September 2026, bringing essential consular services closer to Filipinos in the Island.

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Ambassador Kira Azucena calls on Mayor Andrew Little of Wellington City

Ambassador Kira Azucena paid a courtesy call to Wellington City Mayor Andrew Little on 09 September 2026 to express her gratitude for the City Council's support in establishing Te Kōkonga Filipiñana (Filipiñana Corner) at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library.

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Philippine Embassy successfully concludes third Mobile Consular Mission in Auckland

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand successfully conducted a two-day Mobile Consular Mission on 26–27 September 2026 at the Ellerslie Leisure Centre in Auckland.

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What's happening this October



Mobile Consular Mission in Christchurch

09:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

09 to 11 October 2026

Novotel Christchurch,

52 Cathedral Square, Christchurch



Public Lecture: A Decade Hence: The Enduring Promise of Peaceful Dispute Settlement | Wellington; 12 October

To mark the 10th anniversary of the landmark 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand and the Philippine Studies Network Aotearoa New Zealand, in collaboration with New Zealand Institute of International Affairs - NZIIA - National Office, will host a public lecture on Monday, 12 October 2026, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at Government Buildings, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington.



Public Lecture: A Decade of Resolve: Reflecting on the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award | Auckland; 12 October

To mark the 10th anniversary of the landmark 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand and the Philippine Studies Network Aotearoa New Zealand, in partnership with Auckland University of Technology, Office of the Philippine Honorary Consulate in Auckland, and AUT-Philippine Studies Hub, will host a public lecture on Wednesday, 14 October 2026 at Auckland University of Technology, 6-24 St Paul Street, Auckland CBD.



Pistang Pinoy Consular Services

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand is pleased to inform our public that it will offer select consular services during the Pistang Pinoy 2026 on 24 to 25 October 2026 in 2/F Akau Tangi Sports Centre, 2 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington.



Filipino-Maori Friendly Exhibition Game

In commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Philippines-New Zealand Diplomatic Relations, join us for the Filipino-Maori Friendly Exhibition Basketball Game

Prepare for another round of excitement and friendly competition as two vibrant communities come together on the court.



PHILMAA NZ Arnis Tournament

The Philippine Embassy in Wellington invites all Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) enthusiasts to witness an Arnis Tournament to be held at the Akau Tangi Sports Centre this weekend, where FMA practitioners from all over New Zealand come together to compete in Sport Arnis.

This Inaugural Arnis Tournament is among the sports activities lined up during the Pistang Pilipino 2026 in Wellington and is organized by the Philippine Martial Arts Association New Zealand (PHILMAA NZ) with support from the Philippine Embassy. Entrance to watch the event is

free, so bring along your family and friends to witness this action-packed FMA tournament!

Please visit the Embassy Facebook and Instagram accounts for the latest updates on these events.

ASEAN Corner

This is your go-to spot for fascinating tidbits about ASEAN and the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN in 2026!



ASEAN Summit

The ASEAN Summit is the highest policy-making body in ASEAN comprising the Heads of State or Government of ASEAN Member States. As per regular practice, the ASEAN Summit Meetings shall be held twice annually at a time to be determined by the Chair of the ASEAN Summit in consultation with other ASEAN Member States, to be hosted by the ASEAN Member State holding the ASEAN Chairmanship. The First ASEAN Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia on 23-24 February 1976.

This year, the 48th ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings were successfully held in Cebu in May 2026. Key activities included Senior Officials' and Ministerial Preparatory Meetings, the Special BIMP-EAGA Summit, the Opening Ceremony, Leaders' Meetings, a Retreat Session, and a Gala Dinner hosted by the President and the First Lady. Discussions focused on regional resilience, energy and food security, maritime cooperation, and the ongoing situation in Myanmar, among other priority issues under the 2026 Chairmanship theme.

The 49th ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings will take place in November 2026 in Manila. This Summit will be the culmination of the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairmanship. In addition to the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, a full programme of Related Meetings is expected, including:

- ASEAN–China Summit
- ASEAN–Japan Summit
- ASEAN–Republic of Korea Summit
- ASEAN–India Summit
- ASEAN–Australia Summit
- ASEAN–United States Summit
- East Asia Summit (EAS)
- ASEAN–United Nations Summit

Leaders are expected to adopt key outcome documents, review progress on ASEAN Community building, and provide guidance on major regional and global issues.

Know more

Overseas Voting Bulletin



Ongoing Overseas Voter Registration for the 2028 National Elections

As part of the Embassy's continuous commitment to voter accessibility, Overseas Voter (OV) registration is still ongoing. Filipino citizens are encouraged to register in preparation for the 2028 National Elections or update their voter information. Applicants need to bring a valid Philippine passport or a Dual Citizenship Identification Certificate.

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Consular 101

This is your one-stop hub for important updates, helpful tips, and everything you need to know about the Embassy's consular services.



Question 1: Who are eligible under the Balikbayan Program?

Answer:

a. The term “Balikbayan” shall apply to the following:

- A Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for a period of at least one (1) year;
- A Filipino overseas worker; or
- A former Filipino citizen and his/her family who have been naturalized in a foreign country and come or return to the Philippines.

b. Immediate family members (spouse and children) of the Balikbayan who are nationals of countries falling under Executive Order No. 408 and traveling together with the Balikbayan.

Question 2: What are the privileges of a Balikbayan?

Answer: The Balikbayan and his/her immediate family members are entitled to the following:

a. Tax- exempt maximum purchase in the amount of one thousand five hundred United States dollars (US$ 1,500.00) or its equivalent in Philippine peso and in other foreign currencies at all government-owned and -controlled/operated duty-free shops subject to the limitations contained in Section 4 of RA 9174;

b. Special promotions/incentive programs established by Philippine domestic carriers;

c. Visa-free entry to the Philippines for a period of one (1) year for foreign passport holders, with the exception of restricted nationals;

d. Travel tax exemption as provided under Presidential Decree No, 1183, Executive Order No.283, and other allied laws;

e. Especially designated reception areas at the authorized ports of entry for the expeditious processing of documents;

f. Accredited transportation facilities organized by The Department of Tourism, the Department of Transportation and Communications, and other concerned government agencies; and

g. Kabuhayan shopping privilege and additional tax-exempt purchase in the maximum amount of two thousand United States dollars (US$ 2,000.00) or its equivalent in Philippine peso and other acceptable foreign currencies exclusive for the purchase of livelihood tools at all government-owned and -controlled/operated duty-free shops.

Question 3: What do I need to present to the Philippine Immigration Officer to avail myself of the visa-free privilege for Balikbayan?

Answer: Former Filipinos returning as Balikbayans may enter the Philippines without a visa and stay for a period of one (1) year provided that they have the following:

1. Passport valid for 6 months beyond the intended stay in the Philippines;
2. Round-trip ticket; and

3. Proof of former Philippine citizenship (e.g., old Philippine passport or PSA-authenticated birth certificate). Please note that a foreign passport indicating “Philippines” as your place of birth is not sufficient proof of your previous Filipino citizenship;

Former Filipinos who are admitted as Balikbayans may extend their stay for up to one (1), two (2) or six (6) months provided that they present their valid passport and accomplished visa extension form to the Visa Extension Section in the Bureau of Immigration Main Office or any BI Office in the Philippines. Additional requirements will be asked of those who have stayed in the Philippines after 36 months.

Consular services



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