



# KAPWA

Official Magazine of the MUSLIM FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

2024 *Gala Night*



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**2024**

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Eid'l Adha, Exhibition,  
Summer Picnic,  
Camping, etc.

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THE FIRST-EVER  
MFAC AWARDS?  
See **the full list of  
nominees!**



Showcasing Muslim  
Filipino Identity in  
Canada



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Fifteen years ago, the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada was founded with a vision to unite and empower our community while celebrating our rich heritage. Today, as we commemorate this milestone at our Gala Night, we stand proud of the incredible journey we have shared, a journey filled with growth, resilience, and countless moments of inspiration.



As we gather here tonight, let us take a moment to reflect on the journey that has brought us to this point. The Muslim Filipino community in Canada continues to grow and thrive, showcasing the richness of our traditions, the resilience of our people, and the values that define us: faith, family, and fellowship.

This Gala Night is not just an event; it is a milestone, a reminder of the remarkable contributions of the Muslim Filipino community to Canadian society. It is also an opportunity to honor our pioneers, acknowledge the efforts of our leaders and members, and inspire future generations to uphold the legacy we are building together.

Let us also remember that this gathering would not have been possible without the tireless dedication of our organizers, sponsors, and volunteers. To all who have contributed to making this event a success, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

As we look ahead, may this night ignite within us a renewed commitment to empowering our community, fostering cultural understanding, and contributing positively to our Canadian home. Together, we can continue to chart a path that strengthens our identity and nurtures the bonds that unite us.

Thank you for joining us tonight. May Allah (SWT) bless this occasion, and may He guide us as we work together to build a brighter future.

**HUD "JONATHAN" MACALA**

President

Muslim Filipino Association of Canada

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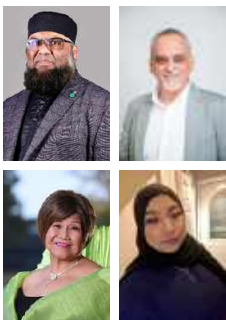
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Muslim Filipinos represented in cultural events.



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About the Gala Theme  
Strength in Community: Building a Better Future Together

## HIGHLIGHT

### 2024 Gala Night

The inaugural MFAC Awards introduced a groundbreaking nomination system to celebrate individuals making a difference in the community. Winners receive unique plaques handcrafted in Lanao del Sur, Philippines, featuring a mini agong symbolizing their resounding impact.

# 46







Salma Zahid

Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre  
Députée de Scarborough-Centre



December 14, 2024

*Letter of Greetings  
to*

## **Muslim Filipino Association of Canada**

It is truly a pleasure to be here tonight to celebrate with all of you at the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada's 2024 Gala Night. I am honored to recognize the achievements and contributions of the Muslim Filipino community in Canada, a community that exemplifies the values of resilience, unity, and cultural pride.

This evening is not only a celebration of your accomplishments, but also a testament to the dedication and hard work each of you puts into strengthening our multicultural landscape. Your contributions to Canada are immense, whether through supporting newcomers, fostering interfaith understanding, or enriching our neighborhoods with the warmth and richness of Filipino culture and Islamic values.

I am grateful for the work of the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada and all that you do to empower our communities and to build bridges of understanding and respect. Tonight, as we reflect on the impact of these efforts, let us continue to work together towards a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Congratulations on a successful gala night and thank you for all that you do.

Mabuhay and salaam.

Yours sincerely,

Salma Zahid, M.P

---

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# With Deepest Gratitude

The Muslim Filipino Association of Canada (MFAC) extends our heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors and partners for their invaluable support and generosity.

Your contributions have made this special Gala Night and the initiatives it supports truly remarkable. Together, we are not only celebrating our shared heritage but also fostering unity, empowerment, and progress within our community.

**Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.**

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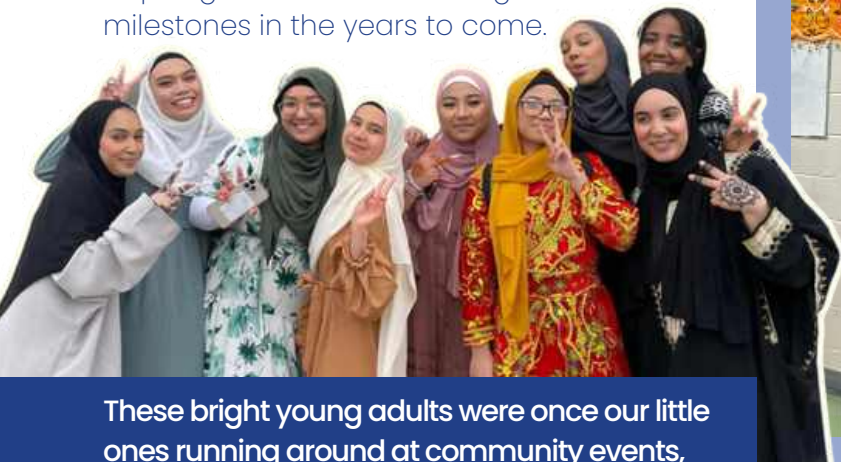
## Performing Arts Partner



# Strength in Community: Building a Better Future Together

For 15 remarkable years, the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada has been a beacon of unity, growth, and resilience. Our theme, ***"Strength in Community: Building a Better Future Together,"*** reflects the journey we have shared and the aspirations we hold for the future.

Over the years, we have witnessed the incredible growth of our community. The babies and toddlers who once played at our gatherings are now young adults, professionals, and newlyweds. This transformation is a testament to the enduring strength of our collective efforts and shared values. Together, we have built a foundation rooted in faith and fellowship, inspiring us to achieve even greater milestones in the years to come.



These bright young adults were once our little ones running around at community events, now all grown up and making us proud!





# PROGRAM

## **6:00 PM – 6:45 PM: Networking**

## **6:45 PM – 7:00 PM: Welcome Remarks and Opening Prayer**

- Opening prayer by Quezon Kadatuan
- Welcome address by MFAC President Jonathan Macala

## **7:00 PM – 7:15 PM: Opening Performance**

- Cultural Performance: Traditional Filipino-Muslim dance by the Culture Philippines Ontario: Kapagapir-apir and Singkil.

## **7:15 PM – 7:45 PM: Dinner Service**

## **7:45 PM – 8:00 PM: Presentation of Halal Expo Philippines**

## **8:00 PM – 8:15 PM: Keynote Address: *Hon. Rechie Valdez, Member of Parliament***

## **8:00 PM – 8:15 PM: Performance**

- Cultural Performance: Traditional Filipino dance by the Culture Philippines Ontario: Pandanggo sa Ilaw and Tinikling.

## **8:15 PM – 9:00 PM: Panel Discussion**

“Building a Stronger Future: The Power of Community”

- Moderator: Mazen Campong
- Panelists: Sh. Imran Ally, Nasser Deeb, Agnes Miranda, and Aisha Macala

## **9:00 PM – 9:10 PM: Message of Support: *Consul General Angelica Escalona***

## **9:10 PM – 9:25 PM: Message of Support: *Hon. Salma Zahid, Member of Parliament***

## **9:25 PM – 9:40 PM: Message from the Sponsors**


## **9:40 PM – 10:15 PM: Recognition Ceremony**


- Announcement by Awards Committee
  - Outstanding Volunteer Service Award
  - Lifetime Achievement Award
  - Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
  - Family of the Year Award
  - Excellence in Education Award
  - Youth Empowerment Award
  - Outstanding Artist Award
  - Excellence in Sports Award
  - Community Support Excellence Award: Halal Expo Canada
  - Community Support Excellence Award: Philippine Extravaganza


## **10:15 PM – 10:30 PM: Closing Remarks**


- Closing Remarks by the Gala Committee Chair, Carolina "Aisha" Pineda
- Announcement of upcoming community initiatives and events for 2025 and Raffle Draw
- Certificate of Appreciation to the members of the Gala Committee, Photo Opportunity
- Final Words, Dua by Sheikh Imran Ally



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وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Thank you to the **Muslim Filipino Association of Canada** for fostering a warm and supportive community. We are truly happy and proud to be part of this family.



*Dater Ombran Ali & Bai Tayan Abdullah-Ali*



*Warmest greetings from the Abdullah, Alam, Ali, and Kadatuan Families!*

We are proud to celebrate this special Gala Night with the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada. May this evening bring joy, unity, and continued success to our community.



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The Muslim Filipino Association of Canada's (MFAC) presence at these events is vital for fostering greater cultural understanding and unity within the diverse Filipino community. Through participation in these festivals, MFAC promotes inclusivity, strengthens community ties, and celebrates the shared heritage that enriches Canada's multicultural fabric.

- July 6-7, 2024, Vaughan Fiesta Extravaganza  
! 1441 Clark Ave West, Vaughan
- July 13-14, 2024, Brampton Fiesta Extravaganza  
! Chinguacousy Park, Bramalea Rd, Brampton
- August 25, 2024, Mabuhay Philippine Festival - Cultural Parade  
! Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto, Ontario







بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Alhamdulillah, we celebrate the blessed union of

*Ahmad Khashash  
&  
Ayah Barghout*

May Allah (SWT) grant you barakah in your marriage, fill your lives with love, sakeenah, understanding, forgiveness, and bless you with righteous offspring.

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them, and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought."

(Surah Ar-Rum: 21)

أَمِينَ



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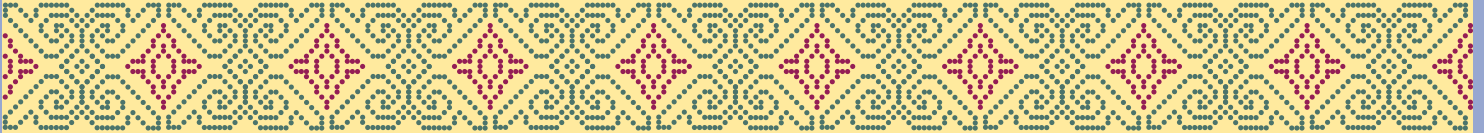
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**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY**

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15 years of culture and community

**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY**

1. About Us: We are a community of Muslims of Filipino descent in Canada, dedicated to promoting and preserving our culture and faith.

2. What we do: We provide a platform for our members to share their experiences, talents, and traditions, and to support each other in their journey.

3. Why us: We are a community that values diversity, inclusivity, and mutual respect, and we strive to create a safe and welcoming space for all.

Join us today! Scan the QR code to learn more.

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**2021 Gala Night**

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BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

2021 Gala Night

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# Tagasaan pokayo sa atin?

## Where are you from in the Philippines?

### Sherma Abdula

Born and raised in Pampanga (Floridablanca);  
Language Spoken; Kapampangan, Tagalog, &  
English. Mother is from Pampanga  
Father is from Mindanao (Tausug) from Abdula clan,  
the Northside side area close to Masjid Al Omari

### Ghanim CachuelaJaro CastorLoreno

Cavite City, Cavite Province

### Tayan Abdullah-Ali

Me and my siblings were born and raised in different cities  
in Metro Manila, Zamboanga City, Cotabato City, Bacoor,  
Cavite...finally settling in Maharlika Village, Taguig City.

### Jesebel Jumawid Dopson

Representing Bohol !!



### Norkhalila Mae Mambuay-Campong

From Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. Born in Dipolog.

### Elcid Truman

Born and raise in Basilan full blooded and proud Yakan.

### Khadeejah Riza Khamal

Born in Basilan; spent my childhood in a town in  
Zamboanga City but embraced adulthood in Sta. Mesa,  
Manila. I speak Yakan, the Moro tribe I belong to :Tausug,  
Badjao or Sama; Chavacano, and Tagalog.

### Quezon Kadatuan

Datu Piang, Maguindanao del Sur

### Sara Sampang

I was born and raised in Kalamansig, Sultan  
Kudarat. My mom from Zamboanga, father  
side from Basilan. I can speak fluent Samal,  
broken Tausog. Currently living in Toronto.

### Ana Rose Domingo

Was born and raised in Isabela. Speak Ilokano.

### Saffia Rodhie

I'm from Baguio. I'm Kiyangan and Ifugao.

### Ruby Dacanay

I was born in Pangasinan. I speak Ilokano and proud.

### Carolina Pineda

I was born in Manila. Moon ages ago I can  
speak Visayan ( Southern Leyte.)

### Umu Usama

Born and raised in San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

### Iris Aurea

I was born in Pagalungan,  
Maguindanao but grew up in  
Davao City. I now reside in  
Halifax, Nova Scotia. My  
father's side's family is  
Maguindanaon from the  
Pendatun-Matalam Clan.

### Aiman Paquil

Born in Benghazi, Libya  
I grew up in Cotabato City,  
Maguindanao.

### Jonathan Duray Macala

Mati, Davao Oriental

### Ibrahim Alamada

From. Pigcawayan, North Cotabato





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# Eid'1 Fitr



## Distinguished Guests

The event was graced by notable personalities, including three Members of Parliament:

- **Hon. Rechie Valdez**, the first Filipina MP from Mississauga, Ontario.
- **Hon. Salma Zahid** of Scarborough, and
- **Hon. Judith Sgro** of Humber River—Black Creek.

Support from the Philippine Consulate added to the event's success, with Consul RJ Sumague attending on behalf of the Consulate.

On April 14, 2024, the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada (MFAC) marked a joyous occasion at the TARIC Islamic Center in North York. Under the leadership of President Jonathan Duray Macala, the event celebrated Eid, MFAC's 15th anniversary, and the 75th year of Philippine-Canada friendship.

The gathering brought together members of the community in a spirit of unity and celebration. The day was filled with lively activities, including a community potluck and engaging games, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

As MFAC celebrates 15 years of fostering unity, culture, and heritage, this milestone event is a testament to the enduring strength of the community. The success of the Eid celebration and exhibit reflects MFAC's commitment to bridging cultures and building connections between the Philippines and Canada.





# + Exhibit



## Highlighting Culture and Heritage

A significant highlight of the event was the mini-exhibit showcasing the rich culture and heritage of Muslim Filipinos. Curated by the Exhibit Committee, led by Grace Aguilar and Norkhalila Mae Mambuay-Campong, the display offered a glimpse into the history and contributions of Muslim Filipinos in Canada and beyond.

The exhibit was made possible through collaboration with esteemed partners. Special thanks to Marian Pastor Roces for her invaluable mentorship and guidance. Gratitude also goes to AMIN - Anak Mindanao Partylist and Mayor Sitti Djalila Turabin for permitting the use of materials from the 2017 ARMM and TAO INC. exhibit. This marks the first time such an exhibit has been presented in Canada, a milestone achievement for the community.







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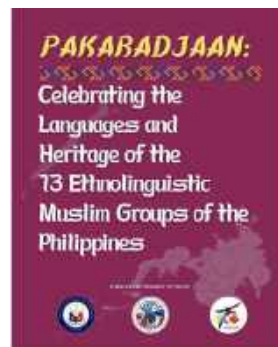
ARLENE J. MARQUES | ROBERT J. KENNEDY







On August 20, 2024, the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada (MFAC) launched a mini-exhibit, "Pakaradjaan: Celebrating the Languages and Heritage of the 13 Ethnolinguistic Muslim Groups of the Philippines," at the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto. Aligned with Buwan ng Wika, this exhibit highlights the vibrant culture and diversity of the Bangsamoro people. The exhibit remained on display from August 20-30, 2024.



CONTRIBUTORS: NOOR SAADA, JONATHAN MACALA, TAYAN ABDULLAH-ALI, ELIN ANISHA GURO, AMIR MAWALLIL, GLENDA BAIDDIN OROZCO, NORKHALILA MAE MAMBUAY-CAMPONG, HALIMA SAHIM SALI, ABDELNUR CAMPONG, ABDULHAMID ALAWI, JR., GLENN FRANCIS LANTICSE, MIMBALAWAG MANGUTARA, JR., CECILE B. MAMBUAY, PITCHIE TRAVILLA DIANG, YHANG MACUSANG, AIZAH CAPARAN, ABUBACAR DATUMANONG, FATMAWATI T. SALAPUDDIN, NORHANIDAH MACATOON, WENDEL LONTUA, AL-TREKEE DAYAN

## PALAWANI

MAUNO KÊ?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

LUMBOS KÊ. WELCOME!

MANGAAN KETYO. LET'S EAT.

YÊT NGARAN KO AY (NAME),  
TUMINYÊG AKO KÊT (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

GAAY KO IKÊW. I LOVE YOU.

SALAMAT. THANK YOU.

MAAF. I'M SORRY.

PALAWAN

## MOLBOG

MUPIYA UDDUW! MUGUNOH KUNOH?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

PULADAS! WELCOME!

MUKON KITO. LET'S EAT.

NGADAN KO SI (NAME), BUKAD  
AKO KAA (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

KUKUSIHAN TUKAH. I LOVE YOU.

MUGSUKOR. THANK YOU.

AMPUNA AKO. I'M SORRY.

BALABAC ISLAND,  
PALAWAN

## KOLIBUGAN

MUSTA AH NA DN?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

DAYUN NGA/AMO. WELCOME!

KUMAN ITA. LET'S EAT.

NGARAN OH SI (NAME), TIDU /  
M'GGANANG DG BANWA (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

MALIYAG OH JANIA. I LOVE YOU.

SALAMAT. THANK YOU.

MAAF. I'M SORRY.

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

BASILAN

SULU

## BADJAO

OY! BWATTINGGA RU KAA?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

ITU KA! WELCOME!

AMANGAN. LET'S EAT.

ON KU SI (NAME) MAKA PATENNA  
AKU MA (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

KAA KALASAHAN KU! I LOVE YOU.

AGSUKOL. THANK YOU.

AMPUN/MAAP. I'M SORRY.

TAWI-TAWI

## JAMA MAPUN

MAG INOY KAM/KO?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

NYA DADI OY! WELCOME!

MANGAN KITABI. LET'S EAT.

A-UN KU (NAME), AKU ITU MAN  
(PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

MAASEH KU NINGKAU. I LOVE YOU.

MAGSUKU. THANK YOU.

MAAF AMPUN I'M SORRY.

## SAMA

NA! SALIINGGA KA/KAM?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)  
SINAMA SIMUNUL: OYYY! MAGEY MAGEY NA?  
EYAN NA KAHALAN NU?

PASONG KAU/KAM! WELCOME!  
SINAMA SIMUNUL: PALANJAL KAM.

MANGAN KETAM. LET'S EAT.  
SINAMA SIMUNUL: MAANGAN TABI.

ON KU SI (NAME) MAKA AKO  
TO MIN (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

ABAYA/ALASA AKO MA KAU.  
I LOVE YOU. SINAMA SIMUNUL: MAANGAN TABI.

AGSUKOL. THANK YOU.

MAGMAAP. I'M SORRY.

## TAUSUG

MAUNU-UNU KAW?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

LANJAL KAW/KAMU! WELCOME!

KUMAUN KITA NIYU. LET'S EAT.

IN NGAN KU (NAME), IBAN IN AKU  
INI DAIN HA (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

MALASA AKU KAYMU. I LOVE YOU.

MAGSUKOL. THANK YOU.

MAAPA AKU. I'M SORRY.

## YAKAN

SAINGGE DU KEW?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

PASONG KEW/KAAM! WELCOME!

MANGAN KITE. LET'S EAT.

ALEN KUN SI (NAME), DUK LAHAT  
KUN AMBAN (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AN I AM FROM (PLACE).

KALASAHAN TE KEW. I LOVE YOU.

MAGSUKUL. THANK YOU.

MAAPUN KU. I'M SORRY.





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MAGUINDANAO

SOUTH COTABATO  
& SARANGANI

DAVAO GULF  
AREA

### MARANAO

NA! MAPIPIYA KANO SAN?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

BOLOS KANO. WELCOME!

KUMAN TA. LET'S EAT.

SAKEN SI (NAME), SII AKO  
MAKAPOPOON SA (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AND I AM FROM (PLACE).

PEKABABAYAAN AKEN SEKA.  
LITERALLY MEANS "I LIKE YOU." NO EQUIVALENT FOR I LOVE YOU.

SALAMAT. THANK YOU. OTHER VARIATION:  
SALASALAMAT / SANGGIBO A SALAMAT.

PRILA-I AKO NGKA. I'M SORRY. COMES FROM THE  
WORD "RELA" MEANING  
FORGIVE. LITERALLY, THIS  
MEANS "FORGIVE ME."



### IRANUN

MAPIPIYA KA?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

TARUS KA, INGGOMA KANO. WELCOME!

BAGUR TA, KUMAN TA. LET'S EAT.

SAKEN SI (NAME), A GUMAGANAT /  
MAKAPOPOON SA (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AND I AM FROM (PLACE).

P'KABABAYAAN AKUN SKA. I LOVE YOU.

KADSUKOR, KAPANGINSUKOR.  
THANK YOU.

AMPUN. I'M SORRY.

### SANGIL

KARAPANETE IKAW?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)  
OTHER VARIATION: APA TE BETADE O?

HO, PANAWSIKO IKAW/KAME!  
WELCOME! OTHER VARIATION: HA"TE.

KUMANGKE IKITE. LET'S EAT.

ARENG KO E (NAME), WURO IYA  
BUWA BO (PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AND I AM FROM (PLACE).

NIKINSIKU KARINGANG IKAW. I LOVE YOU.  
OTHER VARIATION: KARARINIYANG KO KAW.

SAMATÉ. THANK YOU.

AMPUNGKO IYA. I'M SORRY. | OTHER VARIATIONS: IYA  
AMPUNYKETE / AMPUNYWE IYA.

### MAGUINDANAON

NGI BETAD NU/NENGA?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

TALUS KA/KANU! WELCOME!

KUMAN TA/TANU. LET'S EAT.

SAKI SI/YAKU NGALA NA (NAME),  
LU AKU NAKABPUN/PENDALEPA  
(PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AND I AM FROM (PLACE).

KALINIAN KU SEKA. I LOVE YOU.

SALAMAT. THANK YOU. | OTHER VARIATIONS:  
SAPULO SALAMAT

AMPUN BU. I'M SORRY.



### KA'GAN

UNDA. MAWUNUNU DA KAW?  
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU? (COMMON GREETINGS)

PANAWS! WELCOME!

MAKAN KITA. LET'S EAT.

YANG NGAN KO SI (NAME), AW  
SIKUN AKO SANG BANWA NG  
(PLACE).  
MY NAME IS (NAME) AND I AM FROM (PLACE).

PASAYA TA KAW. I LOVE YOU.

SUKOR KANGMO. THANK YOU.

AMPUNA AKO. I'M SORRY.



# Eid Al-Adha



The Muslim Filipino Association of Canada hosted a memorable Eid'l Adha Picnic Potluck at Earl Bales Park on July 22, 2024. Families and friends gathered to celebrate the joyous occasion with delicious food, games, and fellowship in the beautiful outdoors. This is the tradition that the community has been doing for 15 years.







# Summer PICNIC

The Muslim Filipino Association of Canada (MFAC) held its annual Summer Picnic on August 10, 2024, at G. Ross Lord Park. Families gathered for a day of fun with games, laughter, and a delicious potluck. Kids and even adults had a blast with games like the classic piñata and sack race. It was a perfect opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and strengthen community bonds.



We thank our sponsor for the yummy halal hotdogs!

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**The Muslim Filipino Association of Canada is proud to feature Culture Philippines Ontario (CPO) in our Gala Night celebration. Renowned for their captivating performances and dedication to preserving Filipino heritage, CPO brings the beauty and vibrance of Philippine culture to life through their artistry.**

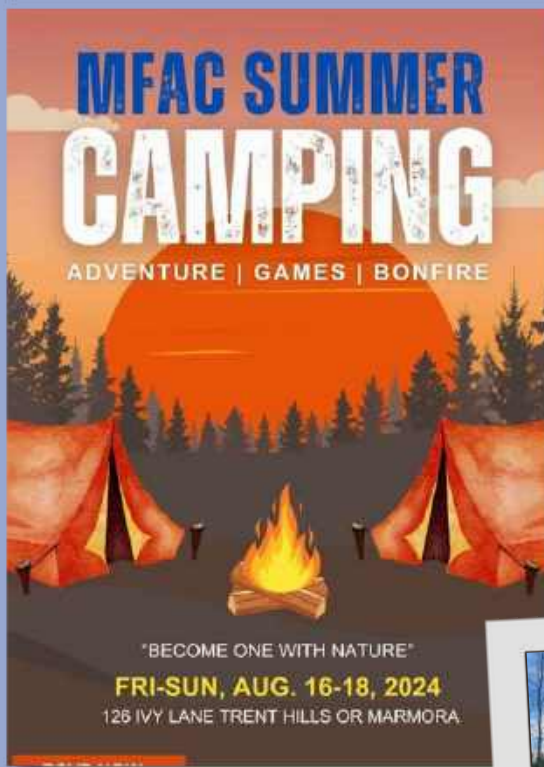
**CPO's performances are a testament to the richness of our shared heritage. Their passion and creativity inspire unity and pride within the Filipino-Canadian community, and we are honored to have them as part of this momentous evening.**

**CPO is a non-profit, community-based, & child-centered organization fostering awareness and appreciation of the Filipino cultural heritage.**

**<http://culturephilippinesofontario.com>**







The Annual Camping/Retreat of the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada (MFAC) held from August 16-18, 2024, at Cedarwoods Park in Campbellford, Ontario, was an unforgettable experience, despite the heavy rains. Families gathered for two nights and three days of camaraderie and community, making the most of the rainy weather.

While the rain poured, it didn't stop the fun. Many enjoyed swimming in the lake. On the second night, a heartfelt Halaqa brought everyone together in reflection and spiritual connection, deepening bonds within the community.

Rain or shine, the MFAC community demonstrated the power of togetherness, turning a rainy weekend into a celebration of resilience, unity, and faith.



**THE CAMPSITE**

“**FOCUS**  
on the good



**DON'T FORGET  
TAKE A BREAK**



**THE SIDE TRIP**







Exhibition & Conference

# Muslim Filipino in Canada REPRESENT

The Muslim Filipino Association of Canada proudly represented the vibrant Muslim Filipino community at Halal Expo Canada on May 8-9, 2024, at The International Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. The association's exhibit highlighted the unique contributions of Muslim Filipinos to Canada's diverse halal ecosystem. The event provided a meaningful platform for fostering connections and celebrating culture and heritage.







Exhibition & Conference

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EDITION**



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VAUGHAN, ON.	JULY 05-06	HAMILTON, ON	JULY 26-27	MONTREAL, QC	AUG 23-24
BRAMPTON, ON	JULY 12-13	NIAGARA, ON.	AUG 02-03	WINNIPEG, MB	SEPT 06-07

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# OUR CULTURAL SHOWCASE

## Highlights from the Philippine Extravaganza



From July 6-7, 2024, at the Vaughan Fiesta Extravaganza, held at 1441 Clark Ave West, Vaughan, Ontario, attendees immersed themselves in the vibrant Filipino culture, enjoying live performances, delicious food, and meaningful community interactions.

A special moment at the event occurred when The Honorable Rechie Valdez, Member of Parliament for Mississauga–Streetsville and the first Filipino woman elected as a Member of Parliament in Canada, visited the MFAC booth.

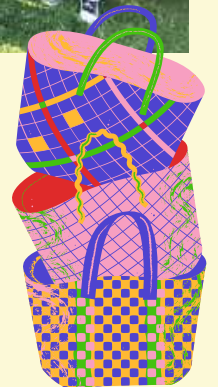
Just a week later, MFAC participated in the Brampton Fiesta Extravaganza on July 13-14, 2024, at Chinguacousy Park, Brampton, Ontario. Over two days, the festival featured colorful cultural festivities that highlighted the diversity and traditions of the Filipino community.

MFAC's presence at these events was a testament to the importance of celebrating cultural heritage while fostering connections across communities.

The Muslim Filipino Association of Canada (MFAC) proudly displayed its exhibit of Muslims in the Philippines during the Vaughan and Brampton Fiesta Extravaganzas in July 2024. The exhibit, which was also showcased during Eid al-Fitr, offered visitors a deeper understanding of the rich history and heritage of the Muslim communities in the Philippines.



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POWER WASHING  
SERVICE CAN  
BENEFIT YOUR  
RESTAURANT!**





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Wishing the Muslim Filipino community a  
memorable Gala Night and continued success

**WARMEST REGARDS**



*with love* ARIS AVILA & FAMILY

December 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

Our organization is getting better and stronger by helping each other with the guidance of the Almighty Allah. Our life is beautiful not because of the things we see or do. Life is beautiful because of the people we meet. Thank you MFAC family for guiding us through the right pathway.

Have a wonderful day everyone!

Warm greetings,

**Youssef “Ben” Boudreau &  
Hja. Sarah Ayob Boudreau**







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## SUMMARY OF NOMINEES

### Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

1. Amina Ammari
2. Ruby Dacanay

### Lifetime Achievement Award

1. Carolina Aisha Pineda

### Outstanding Woman of the Year Award

1. Khadeejah Khamal
2. Irene Hiponia
3. Ana Domingo
4. Ruby Dacanay

### Family of the Year Award

1. The Dacanay-Suedan Family
2. The Abdulkadil Family

### Excellence in Education Award

1. Mazen Campong
2. Daniel Rhodie

### Youth Empowerment Award

1. Aisha Macala
2. Fatima Ammari
3. Daniel Rhodie\*

### Outstanding Artist Award

1. Ayah Barghout
2. Khalil Aayan Campong\*\*

### Excellence in Sports Award

1. Marc Pagcaliwangan
2. Amira Macala

**WINNERS WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED AT THE  
GALA NIGHT**

*\*Disqualified due to age. \*\* Disqualified due to relationship.*





*Meet the*

## THE NOMINEES

Get to know the exceptional individuals  
making a difference in our community!



## Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

**Amina Ammari**, a proud Muslim Filipina originally from Victorias City, Negros Occidental, Philippines, has been an active member of MFAC for 15 years. She is a self-taught cook and baker whose culinary contributions have



been a cornerstone of community gatherings. Her dedication to service includes organizing, cleaning, and ensuring everyone feels welcomed and nourished. ***"She has gone above and beyond to make a difference in both our organization and her community. When others said I am the fort of this organization, for me, the fort will not hold unless the support is there, and she is my best supporter,"*** her nominator shared. Amina's leadership and compassion have left a lasting impact on the MFAC community.



**Ruby Dacanay** is a committed volunteer whose hard work and leadership have enriched the MFAC community. She actively participates in event planning, including managing gifts, raffles, and receptions, all while

maintaining her welcoming smile. Her dedication inspires others, as she often puts community needs before her own. ***"Ruby always gives her time to MFAC, taking tasks to heart and wanting nothing in return. Her leadership and strong personality shine through her actions, not just words,"*** said her nominator. Ruby's initiatives have created meaningful contributions to the community's success.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

**Carolina "Ate Aisha" Pineda** embodies leadership, resilience, and community spirit. Since arriving in Canada in 1979, she has achieved remarkable success in the beauty industry, earning accolades as one of the Top 100 Leaders in Canada for 13 years. Balancing her illustrious career with a deep commitment to family, she considers nurturing her children her greatest achievement, proud of their accomplishments and unwavering love.

Beyond professional success, Ate Aisha has been the heart and soul of the Muslim Filipino Association of Canada (MFAC). During challenging times, she single-handedly sustained the organization, organizing events like Eid celebrations and summer gatherings, often using her resources to bring the community together. Her tireless efforts, creativity, and generosity inspire unity and camaraderie within the group.



The nominator said, ***"Sister Aisha is the backbone of MFAC. Her dedication and determination have kept the organization thriving. Without her, we wouldn't have endured the challenges. She is truly a role model, balancing her professional achievements and volunteer work seamlessly, all while being a big sister to everyone around her."***

Ate Aisha's legacy is one of selflessness and resilience, making her a deserving nominee for the Lifetime Achievement Award. She remains a beacon of hope and inspiration, proving that one person's unwavering commitment can transform an entire community.



# Outstanding Woman of the Year Award

**Khadeejah Riza Khamal**, a journalist, professor, and certified Islamic-based life coach, is a founding executive member of MFAC. She has made groundbreaking contributions to Filipino media in Canada and empowers women through mentorship and advocacy. As a mother of four, Khadeeja balances professional success with community service. ***"She is a beacon of hope who approaches every challenge with unwavering determination, kindness, and humility. Her work as a journalist and life coach has amplified voices and addressed community challenges,"*** says her nominator. Khadeeja's efforts reflect her commitment to unity and cultural understanding.



**Ruby Dacanay's** unwavering dedication to MFAC reflects her passion for community building. She is deeply involved in planning and executing activities, contributing creative ideas, and representing the organization at events. Ruby's efforts consistently uplift those around her. ***"She is very active and supportive in all activities, contributing her time with hard work and leadership. Her efforts strengthen the organization and bring significant benefits to***

***the community,"*** her nominator shared. A loving mother of three, Ruby is indeed "ilaw ng tahanan." She is hands-on in rearing her children.



**Irene Hiponia** is a nurse and advocate for foreign-trained nurses in Canada, rallying to reduce barriers for their professional integration. Her dedication has been recognized through awards such as the Pinoy IEN of the Year and the President's Leadership Excellence Award. Irene balances advocacy with community service and family responsibilities. ***"She stood up consistently for the interests of nurses and worked hard to bring her family together. Her efforts have positively impacted not only Filipino nurses but all foreign-trained professionals,"*** her nominator shared, highlighting her excellence and leadership.



**Ana Rose Domingo**, a registered nurse with over 20 years of experience, has served Humber River Hospital for 16 years. Since reverting to Islam in 2004, Ana has balanced her roles as a mother, healthcare professional, and active community volunteer. ***"Despite her busy schedule, Ana does her best to provide for the community's needs as a reliable friend and sister. She has given so much to the community while balancing her time and resources,"*** her nominator emphasized. Ana's selflessness has left a profound impact on those around her.





## Family of the Year Award

**The Dacanay-Suedan Family** has been a cornerstone of the MFAC community, consistently participating in events and contributing innovative ideas. Led by Ruby Dacanay Suedan and supported by her husband Aimeen and their children, the family actively hosts meetings and organizes raffles and games, creating a welcoming atmosphere for all. ***"This family has given time, money, and effort to support our community. Ruby always takes the lead with dedication, while Aimeen stands by her, ensuring everything is accomplished with excellence,"*** their nominator shared. Their collective commitment inspires and strengthens the community.



**The Abdulkadil Family**, from Basilan and then Riyadh, Saudi Arabia before coming to Canada, exemplifies unity and service. Led by Sitti Fheroza Balani Abdulkadil, they are known for their dedication to Islamic education, community service, and fostering Islamic values. Despite their busy lives, they actively engage in MFAC activities. ***"Sitti balances her professional, academic, and family responsibilities with grace. Her family's commitment to raising practicing Muslims and fostering community spirit is truly admirable,"*** their nominator praised. Their actions showcase resilience, faith, and generosity.

## Excellence in Education Award

**Daniel Rhodie** is a student at Al-Manarat School pursuing Hifz (memorization of the Quran) while excelling in academics and art. He has received awards for his Quran studies and artistic talents, demonstrating leadership and dedication to his faith. ***"He inspires others by leading the youth in memorizing the Quran. His initiative in leading prayers motivates others to follow his footsteps, Insha'Allah,"*** said his nominator. Daniel's commitment makes him a role model for his peers.



**Mazen Campong**, a graduate of Western University's Master of Public Health program, has made significant contributions to healthcare and education. He has led initiatives addressing healthcare inequities, organized vaccination efforts, and collaborated with global organizations like the WHO. ***"He is always thinking about the welfare of the community and works tirelessly to make it more organized and presentable. His heart is open to helping everyone,"*** shared his nominator. Mazen's achievements exemplify his dedication to fostering inclusivity and empowering others.



## Youth Empowerment Award



**Aisha Hannah Macala**, a second-year psychology major at York University, is a dedicated youth advocate and

community leader. From organizing student strikes to founding her high school's Muslim Student Alliance, she has consistently championed social justice and educational reform. **"She inspires others with her determination, resourcefulness, and leadership, advocating for youth causes like education cuts and the plight of Palestinian brothers and sisters,"** her nominator wrote. Aisha's unwavering commitment to addressing systemic challenges makes her a remarkable role model.



**Fatima Ammari** has been an active member of the MFAC community since childhood, volunteering at events and taking

on leadership roles as part of the youth program. She balances her entrepreneurial journey with her commitment to inspiring peers through her actions and values. **"The community has seen her grow from a young child to a role model, inspiring her peers to live righteously. Fatima's hard work and dedication make her an inspiring presence in our community,"** her nominator shared.



**Daniel Rhodie** stands out as a young leader, excelling in Quran studies and inspiring others to follow their faith. His involvement in leading prayers

and memorizing the Quran highlights his dedication to uplifting the youth in his community. **"He did a great job leading the azhan during summer camp. His initiative and strong faith make him an inspiring and worthy role model,"** his nominator praised.

ما شاء الله

to these young ones and the parents who raised them. May Allah SWT bless them to become good and pious Muslims.

## Outstanding Artist Award



**Ayah Khamal Barghout** is a talented writer, poet, and digital artist whose work bridges creativity and community impact. She has established herself as an entrepreneur and cultural advocate, founding the first MFAC magazine and contributing to

various artistic projects. **"She uses her creativity to connect and inspire others, blending impactful narratives with artistic expression. Her work as a writer and designer reflects her dedication to the community,"** her nominator shared.

At just 8 years old, **Khalil Aayan Campong's** creativity and resourcefulness are manifesting in his illustrations of movies, games, and everyday events. **"Aayan conveys his feelings through which is impressive for his age,"** his nominator said. He dreams of being an artist, toy maker, and animator.



## Excellence in Sports Award



**Marc Pagcaliwangan** is a professional boxer with 10 wins, 8 of which are by knockout, and the founder of Boomerz Boxing. He mentors troubled youth and proudly represents his Filipino Muslim identity through his athletic career. **"No matter where he goes, he carries his**

**Muslim Filipino identity with pride. Marc's dedication to supporting community programs and helping others makes him an inspiring figure,"** his nominator shared.

Amira Macala, a student at Charles Williams Jefferys Collegiate Institute, excels in basketball, volleyball, and karate while maintaining academic achievements, including the Principal's Award. As the only Filipino in her basketball team and demonstrates leadership and determination. **"Despite her height, she excels in basketball and encourages her team to perform their best. Last term, her team placed second in their division, with Amira as a key three-point shooter,"** her nominator shared.





## MODERATOR

**Mazen Campong** is a Master of Public Health graduate from Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, recognized for his resilience and academic excellence. With a background in kinesiology and public health, he has contributed significantly to addressing healthcare inequities and promoting community-centered care. His work spans global health initiatives, including tuberculosis awareness in Afghanistan and vaccination efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mazen has also advanced inclusivity through adaptive sports programs and advocacy for athletes with disabilities. As a policy analyst at the Public Health Agency of Canada, he evaluated threat assessment frameworks to enhance national health responses. Mazen's leadership extends internationally, where he has secured funding for underserved populations and piloted drone technology for medical supply delivery. Committed to equity and innovation, he aims to further his impact as a culturally competent physician.

## MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE PANELIST



**Agnes P. Miranda**, a dedicated Filipino-Canadian leader, has been championing community causes since her migration in 1966. As a co-founder of World Financial Group Canada, she advocates financial literacy and has received numerous accolades, including the RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Pin. Agnes has organized initiatives promoting Filipino culture and led disaster relief efforts. She continues to inspire with her humanitarian work and dedication to mentoring future generations.



**Imam Chaplain Imran Ally** has served as a resident Imam in Canada for over two decades, making significant contributions to multifaith chaplaincy, community development, and interfaith collaboration. As a chaplain for first responders and an advisor to various boards, he is a respected figure in policy and humanitarian circles. Imran, alongside his family, passionately advocates for caregivers and individuals with special needs, exemplifying service and compassion.



**Nasser Deeb** is a marketing and event management expert with over 25 years of global experience in the exhibition industry. After a successful career in the Middle East, he moved to Canada in 2012 to lead international market development for Information & Exhibitions. In 2017, he founded THE EXPO HUT, focusing on raising awareness of the halal lifestyle industry in North America. A graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi and a Certified Exhibition Manager by IAEE-USA, Nasser has consistently driven excellence in professional trade show organization and community engagement.



**Aisha Hannah Macala** is a second-year psychology student at York University, recognized for her leadership and social activism. A proud member of the Jane and Finch community, she has led student strikes, organized mental health initiatives, and advocated for educational reform. As founder of her school's Muslim Student Alliance, Aisha fosters unity through cultural events. Her commitment to social justice and faith-driven leadership reflects her dedication to creating equitable opportunities for all.





# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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**Ruby Dacanay Suedan**  
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## MEDIA & INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT

**Norkhalila Mae Mambuay-Campong**  
Digital Communications Manager



**Mazen Campong**  
Content and Media Specialist



