



## **CFO receives record number of PAFIOO nominations**

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) received 159 nominations for the 2026 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO)—the highest in the history of the Presidential awards since its inception in 1991.

Nominations—127 individuals and 32 organizations—came from 36 countries and territories and were endorsed by 50 Philippine Embassies and Consulates General. In terms of initial award categories, 68 were under Banaag, 51 were under Pamana ng Pilipino, 29 were under Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino, 10 were under Kaanib ng Bayan, and one to be determined.

Profiling of the nominees has already begun. A Technical Writing Group was convened to write on and present during the Technical Committee meetings scheduled in July-August 2026. This committee is composed of the CFO as Chairperson and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), academe, and migrants-serving organizations as members.

Shortlisted nominees will, later, be presented before the Executive Committee in September 2026 for the next round of deliberations. This committee is composed of the CFO as Chairperson and the DFA, Office of the President (OP), and representatives from the private sector, media, and religious sector.

Nominees shortlisted by the Executive Committee will be endorsed to the OP for final vetting and approval. This will take place in October-November 2026—before the conferment of the Presidential Awards in December 2026 in Malacañan Palace.

PAFIOO is the highest honor conferred by the Philippine government on overseas Filipino and foreign individuals and organizations, whose achievements, services, and contributions enabled Philippine development and the upliftment of Filipino communities worldwide. To know more about it and the previous awardees, visit the official PAFIOO website at <https://presidentialawards.cfo.gov.ph>.

The CFO remains true to its mandate of not only advancing the rights and welfare of the non-resident Filipinos (NRFs) but also empowering them as partners in national development. Recognizing and leveraging on their knowledge and skills and providing relevant platforms are essential in keeping them engaged in the political, economic, and cultural affairs of the country despite being in other countries.

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## About the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

*The CFO, established under Batas Pambansa 79, is dedicated to the welfare and empowerment of permanent and long-term migrants or NRFs. It is distinct from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), which primarily addresses the needs of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and other temporary migrants.*

*The CFO, an agency under the Office of the President, works to strengthen the social, economic, and cultural ties of global Filipinos with the Philippines. To know more about its programs, visit our official website at <https://cfo.gov.ph>. For any concerns, contact us via telephone at (02) 8552-4700 or email at [info@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:info@cfo.gov.ph).*