

PHILIPPINE BICOL ASSOCIATION OF BC

Albay . Camarines Norte . Camarines Sur . Catanduanes . Masbate . Sorsogon

Celebrating 33rd Year Anniversary Dinner and Dance Induction of Newly Elected Officers and Directors 2023-2025

St. Patrick's Parish Gym. 12th and Main Street Vancouver, BC Saturday, September 02, 2023 5:30 PM

Attire: Semi Formal



CONGRATULATIONS PBABC ON YOUR 33RD ANNIVERSARY AND THE INDUCTION OF THE OFFICERS FOR 2023 - 2025!

PROGRAMS:

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Morning | 8:30am - 12:30nn Evening | 5:00pm - 9:00pm Weekends | 9:00am - 5:00pm

Online/Onsite Classes Laptop Allowance Awaits!

Government Aids are available for qualified students.







Happy 33rd Anniversary

Philippine Bicol Association of BC

As Premier of British Columbia, I am pleased to congratulate everyone at the Philippine Bicol Association of BC (PBABC) as you celebrate your 33rd anniversary.

By offering a variety of cultural, social and educational programs, PBABC has been a vital resource for Greater Vancouver's Bicolano community, while also generously providing much-needed supports for the people in Bicol.

Thank you for your contributions to our province's rich multiculturalism, and for fostering inclusivity and social connection through the promotion of your shared heritage and traditions.

Honourable David Eby, K.C.

Premier of British Columbia





August 15, 2023

Kudos to the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia!

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the celebration of your 33rd founding anniversary on September 2, 2023.

Indeed, the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia has gone a long way since your organization started in 1990 with the aim of fostering goodwill, camaraderie, and service.

Communities become stronger and more cohesive because of the work you do to promote understanding, friendship, and mutual respect.

As the first and only Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of British Columbia who is of Filipino heritage, I am very proud of your commitment to celebrate and share our unique culture with the wider society.

Your contributions help make Canada a vibrant cradle of multiculturalism that is welcoming to people of all races and creed.

May the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia grow stronger and achieve greater success.

Dios mabalos.

Mable Elmore

Sincerely

Vancouver- Kensington Community Office 6106 Fraser Street Vancouver, BC V5W 3A1 T: 604-775-1033 | F: 604-775-1330 E: mable.elmore.mla@leg.bc.ca







September 2nd, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the citizens of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I would like to send my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 33rd Anniversary of the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia.

The Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia — one of the longest running, active and non-profit organization, has provided many years of community service. Your unwavering dedication to the community is unparalleled and you can take pride in the contribution you have made to the well-being of Vancouver. We are fortunate to live in a thriving multicultural city and Vancouver has long benefited from the community spirit, entrepreneurship and plain hard work of our Filipino citizens.

Best wishes for a wonderful celebration and many more successful years!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ken Sim



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES VANCOUVER

MESSAGE



On behalf of the men and women of the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver, I am pleased to congratulate the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia on the occasion of its 33rd Founding Anniversary.

The Philippine Bicol Association has been an excellent example of resilience and cultural preservation within the Filipino diaspora. Through your unwavering commitment, you have successfully upheld the rich heritage, traditions, and values of the Bicol region, contributing to the tapestry of Filipino culture in British Columbia.

The association's dedication to fostering a sense of community and fellowship among Bicolanos and Filipinos alike is truly commendable. By organizing various events and initiatives that promote education, entrepreneurship, and social development, you have created a platform to empower individuals and strengthen the bonds within the Bicol Association.

On this joyous occasion, I extend my warmest wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity to the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia and its members.

May your anniversary celebration be filled with joy and fond memories of the rich Bicolano heritage. I am confident that your organization will continue to thrive and contribute to the multicultural diversity in Canada.

Maraming Salamat and Mabuhay!

ARLENE T. MAGNO Consul General

02 September 2023 Vancouver, B.C.



PHILIPPINE BICOL ASSOCIATION OF BC

Albay . Camarines Norte . Camarines Sur . Catanduanes . Masbate . Sorsogon



Greetings:

Fellow members of Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia, I am honored and humbled by your trust in electing me as your President for the next term.

I would like to thanks the previous Officers and Directors for their outstanding cooperation and dedication to our cause. Your perseverance helped continue the existence of PBABC for the last 33 years counting.

As your President, I pledge to work hard to advance our mission and vision, to uphold our values and principles and to serve with integrity and professionalism.

I also look forward to collaborating with our partners, donors and stakeholders who share our passion for making a positive difference in the world.

I know that we face many challenges and opportunities in the upcoming years, but I am confident that together we can overcome any obstacle and achieve any goal.

I believe in the power of our collective voice and action and I invite you to join me in the journey of transformations and impact.

MABUHAY TO THE PHILIPPINE BICOL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Robert Azana President 2023-2025

FOUNDING PRESIDENT & PAST PRESIDENTS



Jose Fernando Lee 1991-1992



Mario Garchitorena 1995-1997



Chuchi Planes Pineda Founding President, 1990 (Deceased)



Luis Abundo Sr. 1993-1994 (Deceased)



Marilyn Abundo-Cunanan 1998-1999



Elizabeth Valenciano-Cruz 2000-2001



Joe Arellano 2002-2003



Buddy Balana 2004-2005



Jose Fernando Lee 2006-2007



Manny Ilao 2008-2009



Bert Manzano 2010-2011 / 2012-2013



Robert Azana 2014-2015 / 2016-2017



Danny Reyes 2018-2019



THE PHILIPPINE BICOL ASSOCIATION OF B.C.

Albay • Camarines Norte • Camarines Sur • Catanduanes • Masbate • Sorsogon































PBABC's **OFFICERS**

August 2021-July 2023

President Myla Bagasbas Marrinier

Vice Pres

Bert Manzano

Secretary:

Beth Valenciano Cruz

Asst Secretary:

Danny Reyes

Treasurer:

Robert Azana

Asst Treasurer:

Romel Combes

Bus Manager

Juan Dumalasa

Auditor:

Muriel Boncacas

PRO:

Geraldine Suzara

Sgt at Arms:

Mario Garchitorena Jose F Lee

Board of Directors:

Victoria Tena **Jose Arellano** Lorry G . Russell Pilar de Guzman

Advisory Board

Marilyn A. Cunanan **Manny Ilao** Salvador Balana

THE PHILIPPINE BICOL ASSOCIATION, A HISTORY

The year 2023 marks the 33rd year of the founding of the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia (PBABC), an organization of former residents of the Bicol Region coming from the provinces of Albay, Masbate, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte.



The Bicolanos in Greater Vancouver have along found a need for an association of their own to enable them to get together socially, provide service to folks back home and nurture their deeply religious upbringing. When Bishop Jose Sorra of the Diocese of Virac visited Vancouver in 1983 and spoke at a fund raising dinner attended by local Bicolanos to help support some worthy projects in that diocese, he exhorted those present to organize an association for Bicolanos similar to those ones already existing in the United States.

Seven years later, the first meeting initiated by Lisalandy Serrano Parado and attended by Max and Connie Dayupay, Chuchi Planes Pineda, Mardo Pineda and Isabel Abundo Custodio was held at the Dayupay residence in Vancouver to discuss ways and means of forming a local group. It provided the spark for more exploratory meetings involving concerned Bicolanos, all designed to generate interest in a proposed organization. The first big gathering, attended by 120 Bicolanos was held at the Ambleside Park in West Vancouver.



That potluck picnic was followed by a Dinner-Dance at Corpus Christi Social Hall on September 11, 1990. On that occasion, the founding officers, headed by Chuchi Planes Pineda as president were inducted into office. The other officers were: Max Dayupay, vice-president; Hilda Abundo Yee, secretary; Amalia Estrella, assistant secretary; Celie Kare Gallego, treasurer; Pat Pascal, assistant treasurer, Luis Abundo, Sr., auditor; Elizabeth Valenciano Cruz, business manager; Marilyn Abundo Cunanan, PRO; and Fred Gonzalez, sgt-at-arms. The directors were: Rafaela Hombrebueno, Lina Lomeda, Della Taniajura Saavedra, Romy Barbosa, Roque Relevante, Salvador Balana, Jose Fernando Lee, Cesar Banares and Domingo Azur. The advisers were: Lisalandy Serrano Parado and Isabel Abundo Custodio. On December 15, 1990, the association held a well-attended Christmas Party for Bicolano families at St. Paul's Church Hall in Richmond.



The first formal election of the officers and directors of the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia was held at Trout Lake Park in Vancouver on July 7, 1991. The 15 elected board members for the 1991-1992 term subsequently elected from among themselves the officers of the association for a two-year term headed by Jose Fernando Lee as president. The new board members immediately proceeded finalizing the registration of its Constitution and By-Laws. It was on November 13, 1991 that the Registrar of Companies in Victoria issued the association's Certificate of Incorporation No.S-28305 under the Society Act. Nonoy Lee and his officers were inducted into office at the Inaugural Dinner and Ball held at Fantasy Garden World on November 22, 1991.

Under Nonoy Lee's administration, the first issue of Bicol Express, the association's newsletter was published, designed to make local Bicolanos aware of the latest happenings in their community and to highlight the activities of their association. The PBABC also conducted a fund-raising campaign to provide assistance to the victims of Mayon Volcano's eruption which claimed the lives of 68 victims and rendered thousands homeless. The \$1,000 raised in donations was distributed to the typhoon victims by Bishop Jose Sorra of Virac, a well-known charity proponent in the Bicol Region. Bishop Sorra visited Vancouver on October 4, 1992 and officiated mass at St. Andrew's Parish attended by many Bicolanos and

other Filipino-Canadians. After the mass, the Bishop had dinner with the some officers and members at Hon Lock Restaurant. He reminded those present that Bicolanos are religious by nature and their association must put spiritual emphasis in their program of activities such as the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Penafrancia.

The first Penafrancia Celebration was held at St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver. After a nine-day novena, some 150 Bicolanos and friends gathered for a special mass at Fantasy Garden in Richmond followed by a solemn procession around the beautiful garden.



Luis Abundo, Sr. was inducted as new president for the 1993-1994 term at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Vancouver on November 30, 1993. Although he was a few months short of completing his term, resigning for health reasons, his administration continued with vigor the fund raising for the victims of Mayon Volcano's eruption, the annual Family Picnic at Trout Lake, the Penafrancia Celebration culminating with a procession and dinner at Fantasy Gardens. He also provided leadership in a successful Christmas Dinner and Dance at Fantasy Garden.

Mario Garchitorena completed the unfinished term of Luis Abundo Sr. in 1994 and was himself elected president for the 1995-1997 term. During Mario's administration, PBABC sent a \$1,000 donation to the victims of Mayon Volcano eruption and contributed another \$1,000 to the fund drive initiated by the Canadian Red Cross Society for the victims of the major typhoon which devastated the Bicol Region and other parts of the Philippines. The association also sent two Balakbayan boxes with medical supplies to Camarines Norte Regional Hospital and the Rural Health Unit in Daet, Camarines Norte.



The association continued with the annual celebration of the Feast of the Virgin of Penafrancia. It also participated in the celebration of the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz, the **Simbang Gabi** at St Patrick's Parish and the fund raising activities of the Philippine Community Centre Society by sponsoring a pageant contestant.

Marilyn Abundo Cunanan was inducted president for the 1998-1999 term at a well-attended Inaugural Dinner and Dance held at Renfrew Park Community Centre. The affair had some visiting movie stars headed by Christopher de Leon as special guests. Highlights of the association's activities under Marilyn's administration include its participation in the celebration of the Philippine Centennial at the Plaza of Nations on June 13, 1998. The association was commended for its well-received presentation of "Modern Times," showcasing the important events in the country from the Japanese Occupation to the year of the Philippine Centennial (1998) with selected officers and members playing the role of various Philippine presidents during that period.



The association sent five youth delegates to the **Provincial Discovery Conference** in Victoria on August 28-30, 1998. The youth delegates were very active in the conference of young people, mostly Filipino-Canadians, from all over the province. The first fluvial cruise, following the nine-day novena for the Virgin of Penafrancia was held on September 19,1998. A mass was held aboard the ship as it cruised along the waters of the Burrard Inlet followed by an entertainment program featuring visiting Bicolano tenor Mario Dioneda from San Francisco.

A fund raising for typhoon victims through cash donations, used clothing and dry goods with the assistance of St. Patrick's Parish was conducted by the association. The donations were sent to the Philippines in Balikbayan boxes addressed to the Bishops in the Bicol Region. A Youth Member's Dance was held at the Holy Rosary Cathedral Hall on March 13, 1999. The activity, organized by the association's youth delegates to the Victoria Conference was the first social function for children of members and their friends. The association sponsored the first Canadian Concert of Filipino tenor and Bicolano opera singer Mario Dioneda at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver. It was the association's contribution in helping promote a cultural presentation with elegance and style featuring a successful Filipino talent.

PBABC sponsored the Welcome Dinner for the new Philippine Consul General, Madame Zenaida Tacorda-Rabago who hails from the Bicol Region. Some 200 guests representing 29 various community organizations attended the Dinner-Program at Fraser Flamingo Restaurant to meet the very affable and charming Consul General.



Elizabeth Valenciano Cruz was inducted into office for the 2000-2001 term at the Richmond Inn on November 19,1999. In its first year, Beth's administration has already sponsored several special events including PBABC's participation in the Miracle of Hope Telethon for the BC Children's Hospital spearheaded by Consul General Zenaida-Tacorda Rabago on May 7, 2000 at SFU Auditorium. Beth and other officers worked as volunteers and solicited substantial donations from fellow Bicolanos and friends in the one-hour televised campaign. The association participated in the celebration of Philippine Festival 2000 along with many other Filipino Canadian organizations at Queens Park Stadium in New Westminster on June 10-11, 2000. PBABC set up an information booth manned by its officers. Bicolano priest, Fr. Manding Abundo celebrated the mass on the second day of the festival.



The first PBABC Invitational Golf Tournament was held with great success at the Mylora Sidaway Golf Course in Richmond on July 30, 2000, coinciding with the association's annual Family Picnic which was attended by 180 Bicolanos and tournament guests. The golf tournament consisted of 19 ladies, 41 men and two male juniors from Vancouver, Toronto, Seattle and Los Angeles. Close to \$1,000 was raised from the event. The annual Penafrancia Festival was held at St. Patrick's Parish on September 7-15 highlighted by a mass procession and dinner on September 16 attended by Bicolanos and friends.



The association's 10th anniversary celebration was commemorated with an Annual Dinner and Dance at Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel on November 4, 2000. A special presentation was made by selected officers and members who performed the traditional Bicolano folk dance the **Pantomina**.



The Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia has gone a long way since its formation in 1990 and has made a difference in the lives of its members and beneficiaries. The following were elected Presidents in the succeeding years:

Jose "Joe" Arellano [2001 – 2002] Salvador "Buddy" Balana [2004 – 2005] Jose Fernando "Nonoy" Lee was re-elected [2006 – 2007] Manny Ilao [2008 -2009] Roberto Manzano was inducted into office for 2010 – 2011.

In celebration of the 300 years of Devotion to INA [Our Lady of Penafrancia] and the Philippine Bicol Association of BC on its 20th Anniversary, a 9-day novena begun Sept. 9 at St. Patrick's Church. A concelebrated mass, procession and feastivities started at 10:00 am [Sept 18] at St. Patrick's, followed by a Dinner and Dance held at St. Monica's Parish Hall in Richmond at 6:30 pm same day.



Bert Manzano was re-elected for 2012 – 2013, his 2nd term as President. Induction was held at Sta. Monica Parish Hall, Richmond BC. Highlights during his term were the Phil. Independence Day celebrations at Slocan Park in Vancouver, participated by the different Fil Canadian organizations. A mass celebrations was held at St. Patrick's Church in Vancouver on August 23, 2012 for the late Jesse M. Robredo, sponsored by PBABC & attended by many Bicolanos, esp. Nagauenos...



Robert Azana was inducted as President for 2014 - 2015 at Delta Burnaby Hotel & Convention Centre in Burnaby. Highlights of his term were the Fundraising Events for the Typhoon Haiyan victims in the Philippines together with the different FIL CAN organizations in the community; Independence Day Celebrations and the welcoming of President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III.









FROM THE DESK OF LOIDA LEWIS

MABUHAY and CONGRATULATIONS to the Philippine Bicol Association of BC (PBABC) on your anniversary!

Thank you for continuing to showcase our multi-faceted Bikolano culture and heritage, and for empowering your members to become dynamic contributors in their respective communities in Canada.

Indeed, wherever Filipinos are, the Bayanihan Spirit will shine. The root of that word is "bayani", which means "hero." YOU are all heroes, as you continue to embrace and lift up one another, towards an inclusive community that will show your neighbors and friends in Canada, what it means to be a true Bikolano and Filipino.

Keep going no matter what, and no matter where you are — to build a better society for future generations.

Sincerely,

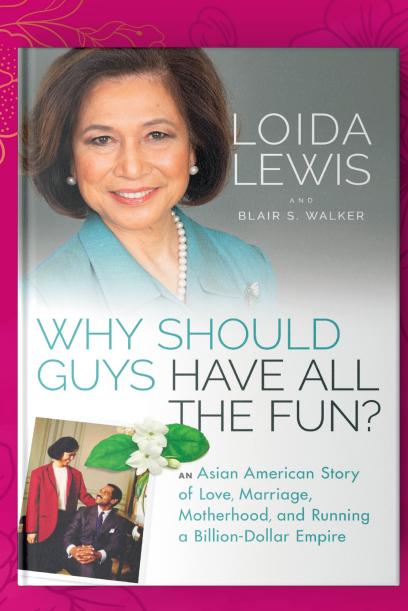
LOIDA N. LEWIS

LoQa Lewis

Author, "Why Should Guys Have All The Fun?" Chair, US Filipinos for Good Governance

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE BICOL ASSOCIATION OF BC PADAYON!



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

1979

upaabc.org





"Congratulations and best wishes to the Officers and members!"

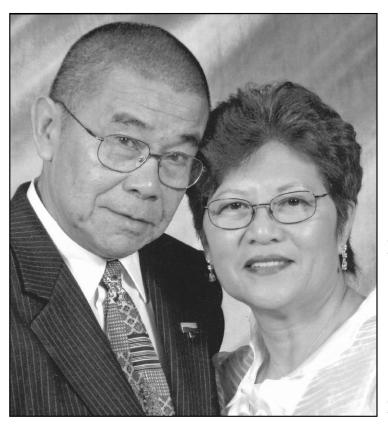
... from Joe, Luz Arellano and Tessie Garcillanosa.

Warmest Congratulations to the newly elected officers of PBABC & on your 33rd Anniversary Celebration



From: Dr. Edwin & Mrs Sally Siroy, Dr. Alan Siroy of Palm Coast, Florida





Congratuations Greetings

to all members and officers of

Philippine Bicol Association of BC

on its

33rd ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION OF ITS NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS from

NONOY & ANGIE LEE
& Family
RUBY & AL
MICHAEL & ELENA
ANGELO
Ryota • Miles • Matthew• Enrique





Congratulations, PBABC on its 33rd Year Anniversary! Greetings from ... Robert, Belen Dy-Prieto Azana and family.

Congratulations, Robert Azana to all Newly Elected and Board of Directors of PBABC



From: The Regan Family Connie, Coll and Don

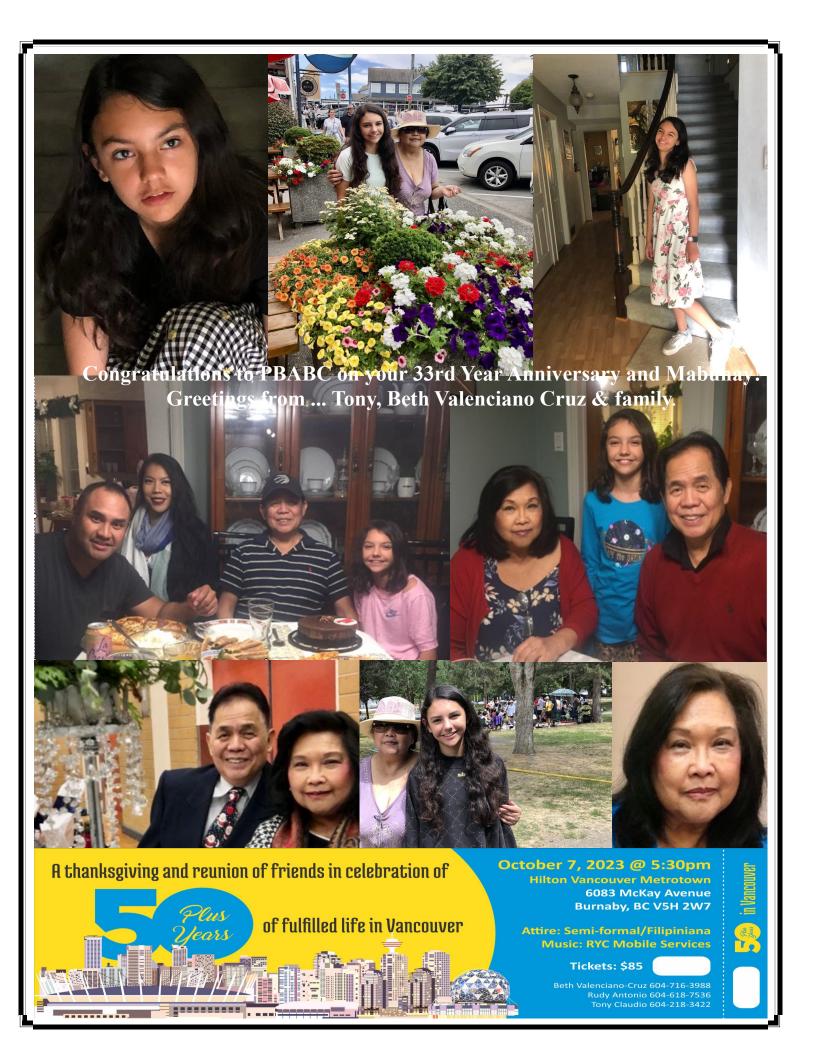


Flip Vision PRODUCTIONS

Congratulations!

Philippine Bicol Association Of BC Canada Officers for 2023–2025





PHILIPPINE BICOL ASSOCIATION OF BC

Albay . Camarines Norte . Camarines Sur . Catanduanes . Masbate . Sorsogon

Newly Elected Officers and Board of Directors 2023 –2025



Robert Azana President



Honesto Dumalasa Vice President



Mario Garchitorena Assistant Treasurer



Pilar de Guzman Secretary



Vicroria Tena Business Manager



Geraldine Suzara Assistant Secretary



Muriel Boncacas Asst. Business Manager



Lorry Russell Treasurer



Danny Reyes Auditor



Robert Manzano PRO



Marlou Cochran Assistant PRO



Nonoy Lee SGT. at Arms



Joe Arellano SGT. at Arms



Beth Valenciano-Cruz



Marilyn Abundo-Cunanan

Board of Directors

PROGRAMME

Master of Ceremonies Betty Gabriel

Part I
Registration
Opening Remarks / Singing of the National Anthems
Invocation / Prayer Before Meals
by Fr Salvador "Jun" Reyes
Dinner served at 7:00 PM

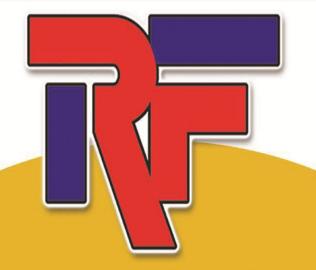
Part II
Induction of the Newly Elected Officers and Board of Directors
(2023-2025)

by Fr Amador "Manding" Abundo

Acceptance Speech by Robert Azana, President

DANCE DANCE DANCE

RAFFLES - 50/50 & Door Prizes



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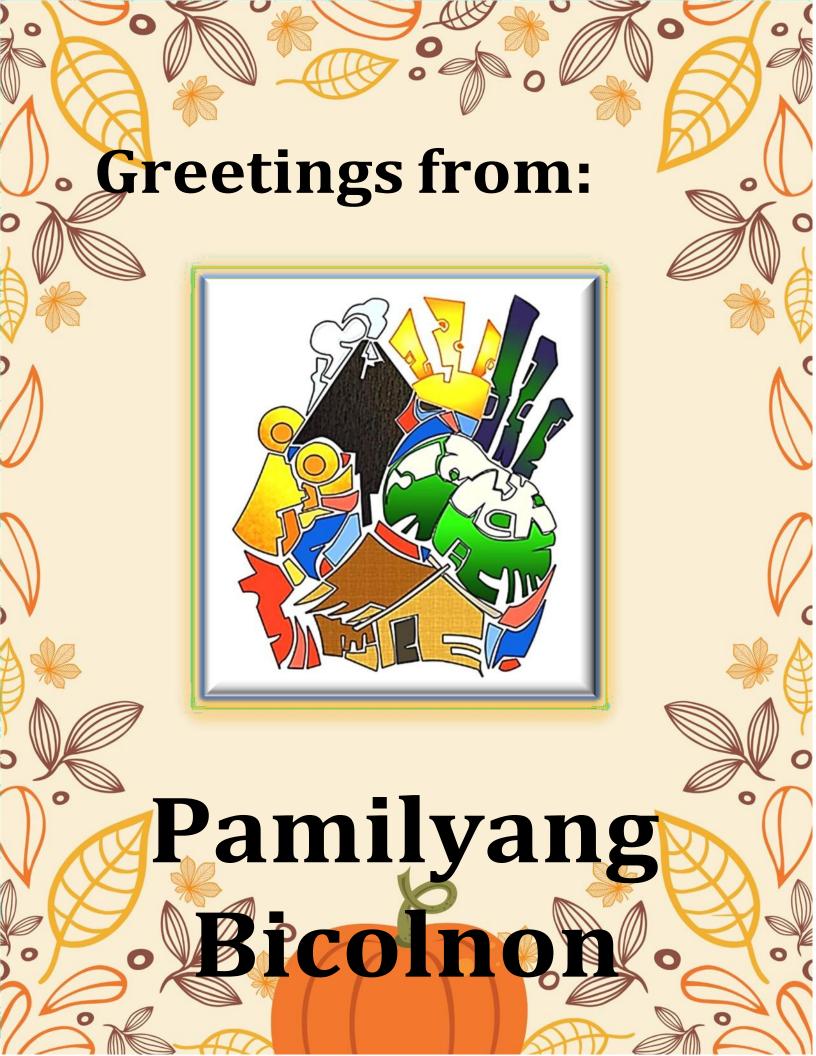
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CPABC OFFICERS 2021-2023

























Cerlyn Pizarro



Cunanan



Jo Ann Belen



Noel Bucad



Rey David





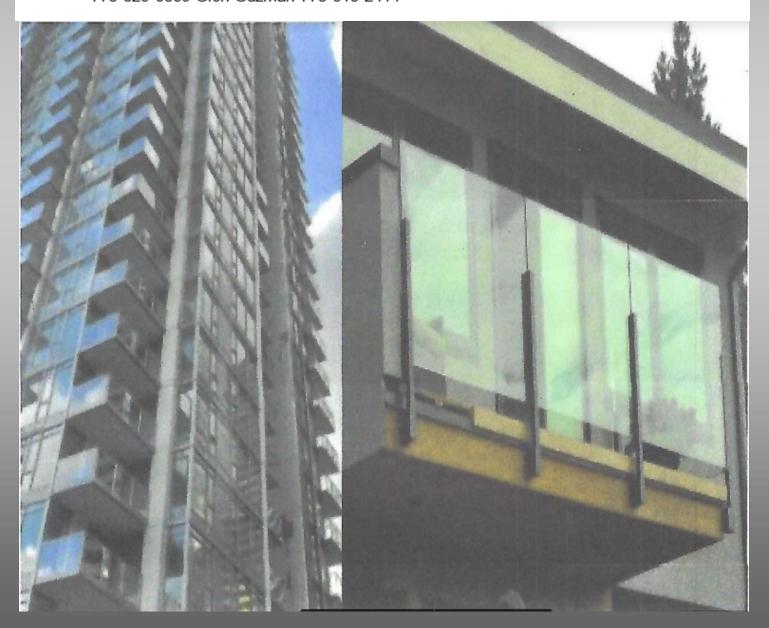
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AMADO N. MERCADO JR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Philippine Bicol Association of B.C on Your 33rd Anniversary and Induction of Newly Elected Officers and Directors









Alex Imperial BA, JD

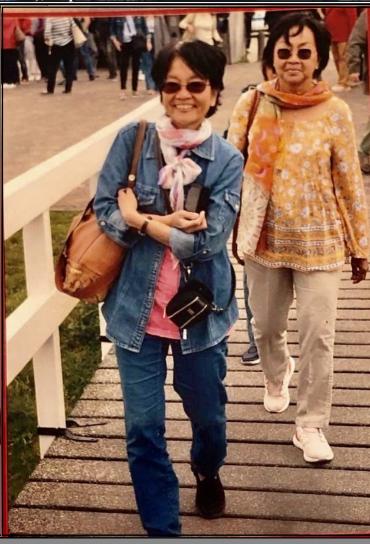
Lawyer - British Columbia, Canada

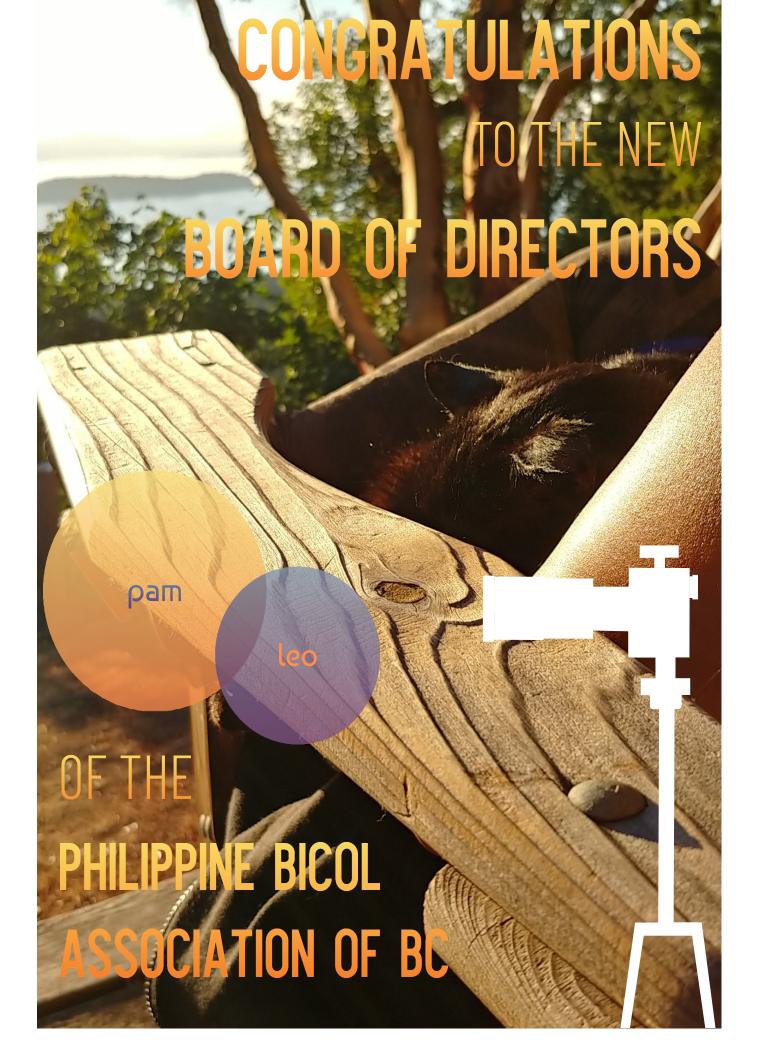
Maharlika Immigration Law

- aimperial@shaw.ca
- +1 604 404 5069
- 3-6471 Princess Lane Richmond, British Columbia, Canada V7E 6R7









CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE NEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

SSOCIATION OF BC



D&H Group LLP
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Accountants

Congratulations!

33 years of compassionate service to Bikolanos and other Filipinos across Canada is admirable and inspiring.

Oragon, Philippine Association of BC!



MARIA SANTOS-GREAVES

President/Owner



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Congratulations to Philippine Bicol Association of BC on your 33rd Anniversary Celebration



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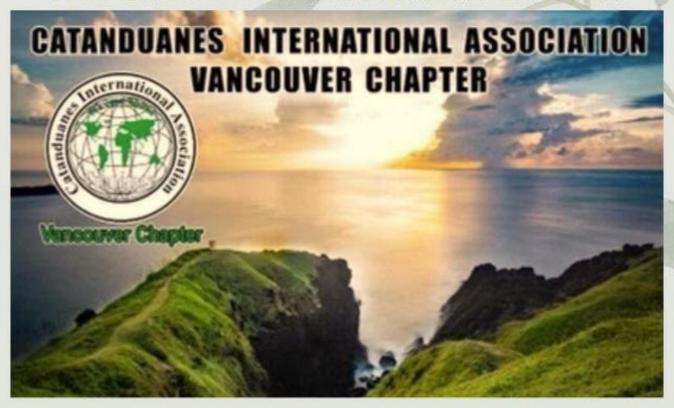


Melquiades Azcarraga Jr.
Pharmacist/Owner
BS Pharmacy CEU Manila



Kristen Azcarraga Pharmacist/Owner BS Industrial Pharmacy UP Manila

WE CARE FOR CATANDUANES



Warmest Greetings!

Congratulations to each and everyone behind the PBABC (Philippine Bicol Association of BC) on the celebration of its 33rd anniversary.

Over the years, PBABC has contributed significantly to our Kababayans. We wish your Association a bright future with more remarkable achievement in the years to come.

Our Congratulations as well to the newly elected Officers and Board Members for 2023 - 2025. Mabuhay Kamo Gabos!

From CIA (Catanduanes International Association) Vancouver Chapter Officers and Members. We look forward to more worthwhile collaboration with you. With God's grace and mercy, lets hope for the best in the coming years.

MABALOS TABI SAINDO GABOS!

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Lani Coloma
VICE PRESIDENT: Arnel Tabo
1st VICE PRESIDENT: Gilda Talan
SECRETARY: Maribel Abundo-Spreecher
ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Ana Lisa Tabo
TREASURER: Pio Ocol
ASSISTANT TREASURER: Evelyn Diamond
PRESS RELATIONS OFFICER: Lorry Russell
AUDITOR: Letecia Tubeo Ocol
BUSINESS MANAGERS:
Edmund Talan: Coordinator for Virac, San Andres,
Gigmoto

Louie Tud: Coordinator for Baras, Bato, San Miguel Ted Traquena: Coordinator for Viga and Pandan Helen Morales: Coordinator for Payo and Bagamanoc

Congratulations PBABC on your 33rd Year Anniversary







From: The Russell Family Delta, BC Canada 2023

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Congratulations to PBABC on your 33rd Anniversary ... Long Live!

From: Amy, Danny Reyes & family.







START FROM

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CONTACT DONNA

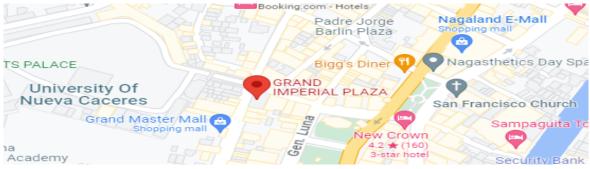


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