

Portuguese National Day Reception



Capt. Ameen and Mrs. Benedita Budagher host the Portuguese National Day Reception 2025 at Slice Restaurant, Royal Golf Club, Riffa. The evening brought together diplomats, senior officials, businessmen, and members of the Portuguese community for a night of cultural pride, highlighted by a cake-cutting ceremony and dinner. Pics credit: Ashen Tharaka

Proud and free

Philippines to mark 127th Independence Anniversary tomorrow with message of unity and global solidarity

● **Ambassador Louis highlights Filipino resilience, bilateral ties with Bahrain**

TDT | Manama

The Philippines celebrates the 127th Anniversary of the Proclamation of its Independence tomorrow, with a powerful message from Her Excellency Anne Jalando-on Louis, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Bahrain, emphasising unity, resilience, and the strengthening of international partnerships.

This year's celebration carries the theme "Kalayaan (Independence), Kinabukasan (Future), Kasaysayan (History)," a tribute to the enduring legacy of Filipino heroes and the continued commitment to shaping a just and inclusive future for all citizens.

Equitable future

"All Filipinos, including those living abroad, have a role to play in the task of building a prosperous and peaceful Philippines that ensures an equitable future for every Filipino," said Ambassador Louis in her official message.

"May we all draw inspiration and strength from our ancestors who exemplify the Filipino spirit of courage, resilience, compassion, and a deep love of country."

As the Philippines marks more than a century of independence, Ambassador Louis



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- H.E. AMBASSADOR ANNE JALANDO-ON LOUIS, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

underscored the nation's pride in standing alongside the global community, particularly in maintaining strong bilateral relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Diplomatic ties between the two nations were formally established in 1978 and have grown steadily across sectors such as trade and investment, arts and culture, people-to-people exchanges, skills development, and labor cooperation.

Heartfelt gratitude

Ambassador Louis extended heartfelt gratitude to the leadership and people of Bahrain for their continued support and

collaboration.

"I take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the government and people of the Kingdom for their support and contributions that further enhance our bilateral ties," she said.

In her address to the Filipino community in Bahrain, Ambassador Louis called on Filipinos to take pride in their nation's sovereignty and to remain steadfast in upholding democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law.

She reminded them of their integral role in contributing to the Philippines' progress, both at home and abroad.

Patriotic call to action

The message concluded with a patriotic call to action: "Let us champion and continue to uphold democratic ideals and principles, universal human rights, justice, the rule of law, and the values of freedom and sovereignty. Maligayang Araw ng Kasarinlan! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang Pilipino! (Happy Independence Day! Long live the Philippines! Long live the Filipino people!)"

As the Philippine flag is proudly raised in various parts of the world tomorrow, Filipinos in Bahrain and around the globe commemorate more than a century of independence with renewed hope, shared purpose, and an unwavering commitment to national pride and progress.

Bahrain enhances rights of persons with disabilities



H.E. Osama bin Saleh Al Alawi at the event

New York

The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

This was emphasised by His Excellency Osama bin Saleh Al Alawi, Minister of Social Development and Chairman of the 44th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, as he chaired a meeting of Arab ministers and heads of delegations held on the sidelines of the 18th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18) at the United Nations headquarters.

Al Alawi said this commitment is reflected in policies and legislation that ensure dignity

“These initiatives reflect a shared Arab commitment to advocating for these rights and coordinating related positions in international forums.”

- H.E. OSAMA BIN SALEH AL ALAWI

and full integration into society, alongside ongoing support for collective Arab efforts in this domain.

He highlighted the vital role played by the United Nations in advancing disability and social

development issues.

The minister commended the fruitful partnership between the organisation and Arab states.

Regional cooperation

Al Alawi emphasised the importance of regional cooperation and the exchange of successful experiences, calling for intensified joint Arab efforts to support the rights of persons with disabilities and develop comprehensive and sustainable responses, while ensuring adherence to relevant international commitments.

He expressed appreciation to the General Secretariat of the Arab League, represented by its mission to the United Nations, for organising this meeting.

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