



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



*Press Release*  
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### **CONSULATE OFFICIALS AND LOS ANGELES FILIPINO COMMUNITY WELCOME SARAO JEEPNEY DONATED BY THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL**

Los Angeles, 4 March 2025 – The Filipino-American community in Los Angeles, with Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles (LA PCG) and Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) officials, gave a festive welcome to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) Chairman Romando S. Artes and his delegation as the latter formalized the donation of an authentic Sarao jeepney for the Filipino community during the ‘meet-and-greet’.

The event was held on 03 March 2025 at PWC’s Larry Itliong Village in LA’s Historic Filipinotown. In front of over 100 guests representing a diverse group of Filipino-American organizations, Chairman Artes and Consul General Adelio S. Cruz led the ribbon-cutting ceremony which was followed by a handover of the ceremonial key to PWC’s Ms. Malou Villacisneros.

Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz commended the MMDA’s and MMFF’s efforts to nurture a closer relationship with the Filipino-American community in Southern California, noting that this is now the second consecutive visit from the delegation.

Chairman Artes noted that the jeepney is a very recognizable icon of Filipino culture and he expressed hope that the jeepney will help keep alive the Filipino-American community’s connection to the Philippines. He also took the opportunity to invite the community to the MMDA’s free concert offering in celebration of MMDA’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - the “Konsyerto para sa Filipino” is scheduled on March 8, 2025 at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center.

District 13 Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, who has constituency over Historic Filipinotown, graced the occasion and gave recognition to the importance of diversity and the influence of the Filipino-Americans in shaping their communities.

Ms. Villacisneros, speaking on behalf of PWC and the community, thanked the MMFF for their generous donation. She said that jeepney will help further promote Filipino culture

and heritage not only to the younger generations of Filipino-Americans but to the wider community.**END.**



*Photo on the left: District 13 Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, Madam Katherine Cruz and PWC's Ms. Malou Villacisneros.*

*Photo on the right: Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez meets MMDA Chairman Romando S. Artes, Consul General Cruz and Ms. Villacisneros in the background.*



*During the MMDA Meet & Greet with the Filipino-American community.*





*Ribbon-cutting ceremony*



*Ceremonial key turnover*



*The Sarao jeepney donated by the MMFF/MMDA.*