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## PHILCONGEN LA COMMEMORATES 129<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF DR. JOSE P. RIZAL



Flag-raising ceremony at the Community Hall (left); unveiling of bronze bust of Jose Rizal at the Sentro Rizal (right)

LOS ANGELES, CA – In honor of the 129<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles hosted a special program on 29 December 2025 at the Consulate’s Community Hall and Sentro Rizal under the theme, *“Rizal: Sa Pagbangon ng mga Mamamayan, Aral at Diwa Mo ang Tunay na Gabay”* (Rizal: As Our People Rise, Your Teachings and Wisdom Guide Our Way).

The commemoration began with a flag-raising ceremony at the Community Hall followed by remarks from Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz. The Consul General underscored the continuing relevance of Dr. Rizal’s ideals, particularly for Filipinos living overseas. Addressing members of the Knights of Rizal (KOR), consular clients, as well as personnel of the Consulate and its attached agencies, he noted that while life in the diaspora can be demanding, Rizal’s legacy reminds Filipinos to remain united, proud of their heritage, respectful of differences, and committed to the common good.



Consul General Cruz delivering his opening remarks



KOR's Dr. Flores providing a response message

A response message was delivered by Dr. Arthur Flores, Knights Commander of Rizal and Area Adviser for the KOR Western USA Region, on behalf of the Knights of Rizal. Dr. Flores expressed his gratitude to the Consulate for organizing the commemorative activity and for its continued support of the Filipino community. He also highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting Dr. Rizal's teachings, which serve as a guide for Filipinos in the present day.

The second part of the program was held at the Sentro Rizal and featured the unveiling of a bronze bust of Dr. Rizal donated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). In a special message, Consul General Cruz conveyed his sincere appreciation to the NCCA for the generous contribution, to the Department of Foreign Affairs for facilitating its shipment, and to all partners and guests whose support made the event possible.



Consul General Cruz presenting the new bronze bust from NCCA; Consulate and KOR officials posing with the new Rizal sculpture

The unveiling reaffirmed the Consulate's ongoing efforts to strengthen Sentro Rizal's role as a cultural hub and a lasting tribute to the country's national hero.

The commemoration concluded with a breakfast *salo-salo*, where guests were treated to Filipino classics, including *chamorado* and dried fish commonly known as *jeprox*.

Rizal Day is a Philippine national holiday observed every 30 December, marking the anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal's execution in



Guests partaking in the breakfast *salo-salo*

1896 at Bagumbayan (now Luneta Park) in Manila. END



Consulate officials and staff with representatives from the Knights of Rizal