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## PHILCONGENLA LAUNCHES 2026 VERY IMPORTANT PINOY TOUR IN SAN DIEGO



*Participants of the 2026 VIP Tour launch in San Diego posing for a picture*

SAN DIEGO, CA – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles successfully conducted the San Diego launch of the 2026 Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour on 15 January 2026 at the Villa Manila in National City, California. Hosted by Philippine Honorary Consul Audie J. De Castro, the event brought together Filipino and Filipino-American community leaders and members, local executives, and tour enthusiasts from across San Diego County.

In his presentation, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz proudly announced that the Consulate General will serve as the lead organizer for the 2026 VIP Tour, which is set to take place from 12 to 21 July 2026. Consul General Cruz also underscored the special significance of the 2026 VIP Tour, noting that it will coincide with the commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the United States.



*Consul General Cruz providing a presentation on the 2026 VIP Tour*



*Consulate officials with Honorary Consul Audie De Castro and National City Mayor Ron Morrison (second and third from the right)*

To further encourage participation, Honorary Consul De Castro shared his personal experiences from previous VIP Tours, highlighting how the program deepened his understanding of Filipino culture and strengthened his connection to the Filipino people. Meanwhile, 97-year-old community member Ms. Teresita Manglicmot expressed her keen interest in joining the 2026 VIP Tour alongside her younger sister, who was also present at the launch.

An annual U.S.-wide initiative of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Department of Tourism, in cooperation with Rajah Tours, the VIP Tour serves as a venue for Filipinos, Filipino-Americans and friends of the Philippines to rediscover the country and experience its culture, heritage and natural beauty. The 2026 edition of the VIP Tour will bring participants to top Philippine destinations in Manila, Dumaguete, and Cebu, with day trips to Siquijor and Bohol.

For more information on the 2026 VIP Tour, visit: [www.viptourphilippines.com](http://www.viptourphilippines.com). END