



PR-AASC-16-2026

## GOVERNOR CECILIA ARANETA-MARCOS LEADS ILOCOS NORTE MISSION TO LOS ANGELES



*Opening of the "INabel: Living Threads" Exhibit (left); Dinner Reception in Honor of Ilocos Norte Provincial Government (right)*

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles supported the Tourism, Trade, and Investment Mission of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, led by Governor Cecilia Araneta-Marcos, to Los Angeles, California, held from 20 to 25 May 2026.

The mission highlighted Ilocos Norte's efforts to strengthen ties with Filipino-American communities, promote the province as a tourism, trade and investment destination, and create new opportunities for cultural, educational, and economic cooperation in Southern California.

### **COURTESY CALL ON THE CONSUL GENERAL**

On 21 May 2026, Governor Marcos and her delegation paid a courtesy call on Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz at the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen economic, cultural, tourism, educational, and community ties between Ilocos Norte and Southern California. Governor Marcos underscored the important role of overseas Ilocanos and Filipino-Americans as partners in advancing the province's development priorities and promoting Ilocano heritage abroad.



Consul General Cruz welcomed the delegation and noted the strong presence of Ilocanos in Southern California, emphasizing the Consulate General's support for initiatives that connect Philippine local governments with communities, institutions, and stakeholders in the region.



### **TOWNHALL MEETING WITH THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

Later that day, Governor Marcos met with members of the Ilocano community and Filipino-American organizations during a townhall meeting held at the Consulate General's Community Hall.

The delegation presented Ilocos Norte's current programs and encouraged the community to take part in initiatives that support the province's development. The discussion also highlighted the role of the diaspora in preserving language, traditions, and local identity across generations.



A key feature of the townhall was the presentation of the Genuine Ilocano Program, which seeks to connect Ilocanos worldwide through identity, opportunity, and shared heritage. The delegation explained that the program begins with a simple registration process through [gi.ilocosnorte.gov.ph](http://gi.ilocosnorte.gov.ph).



Governor Marcos encouraged overseas Ilocanos to continue supporting local products, promoting Ilocano culture, and helping younger Filipino-Americans reconnect with their ancestral roots.



## **“INABEL: LIVING THREADS” EXHIBIT**

On 22 May 2026, Governor Marcos and Consul General Cruz led the opening of “*INabel: Living Threads*,” a special traveling exhibition on the heritage textiles of Ilocos Norte, at the Carson Event Center in Carson, California. The exhibit was organized by local cultural advocates, including Executive Producer Ms. Rosalina Chua, and the visiting delegation, including Curator Mr. Ianree Raquel.



The one-day, free-to-public exhibition showcased *inabel*, the handwoven cotton textile of Ilocos, and the weaving tradition that continues to sustain it. Through textile displays and cultural presentations, the exhibit highlighted the artistry, craftsmanship, and cultural significance of *inabel* as one of Northern Philippines’ most distinctive textile traditions.



The exhibit also served as a platform to promote Ilocos Norte's creative industries and local artisans to Filipino-American and multicultural audiences in Southern California. It formed part of the year-long commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Philippines-United States diplomatic relations and the observance of National Heritage Month in May.

#### **DINNER RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE ILOCOS NORTE DELEGATION**

A dinner reception in honor of Governor Marcos and the Ilocos Norte delegation was hosted by Ms. Chua on 22 May 2026, at the tail end of the *"INabel: Living Threads"* exhibition.



The reception brought together members of the consular corps, elected and appointed officials, and community and business leaders. In his remarks, Consul General Cruz noted that the gathering reflected the shared interest of many partners in supporting Ilocos Norte and in building closer ties between the province and Filipino-American communities in the U.S. Southwest.



Throughout the mission, the Ilocos Norte delegation engaged business and community leaders to explore possible areas of cooperation, highlighting the value of subnational diplomacy in strengthening ties between Philippine local governments and Filipino-American communities. END