



## AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



On this day, 125 years ago, the Philippines embarked on a new chapter in its illustrious history by proclaiming its independence from centuries of colonial rule. This awakening stirred our forefathers from their slumber, fueling the innate patriotic fervor and indomitable spirit of the Filipino people. It not only reinforced their belief in their capacity to stand on their own but also ignited a burning aspiration to build a strong nation founded on freedom and equality.

The theme chosen for this year's Independence Day commemoration, "Kalayaan.Kinabukasan. Kasaysayan" or "Freedom.Future.History," aptly depicts the hard-won victory of our ancestors and their unwavering struggle to ensure that future generations do not endure the same hardships they faced. The Philippines and Bangladesh, both having experienced debilitating oppression and unimaginable challenges under colonization, have emerged as sovereign nations, triumphing against all odds. Today, they peacefully march forward, striving for greater progress and development.

As Bangladesh optimistically transitions to the status of a middle-income country, the Philippines draws inspiration from the unwavering patriotism and pride of the Bangladeshi people. These qualities serve as an inexhaustible source of strength, propelling the Philippines towards growth and prosperity. While both nations face ongoing challenges that test the progress achieved and the hard-won liberties of their people, they can take solace in their historic triumphs against oppression and injustice. The determination of their citizens to rise above challenges and strive for the recognition of their identity, unity, and independence remains unwavering.

**Leo Tito L. Ausan, Jr.**  
*Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines  
to Bangladesh*

# Discover the Philippines Be Our Guest

With the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration that COVID-19 is no longer a global health emergency three years after the outbreak of the virus, there has been a marked and rapid increase in the number of people wanting to make up for time and experiences lost to the pandemic. With the easing of travel restrictions and opening of borders, "revenge travel" has become the online buzzword.

The Philippines, one of the top destinations in Southeast Asia, boasts of a rich biodiversity, numerous heritage towns, rainforests, and pristine tropical beaches, among others. Its position in the Pacific Ocean makes it home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. The islands of Boracay and Palawan have been recently awarded and recognized as the top islands in Asia. Boracay, in particular, was voted in 2022 among the World's Best Islands in Conde Nast Traveler's (CNT) Readers' Choice Awards.

The sheer number of Filipinos abroad, including in Bangladesh, are known for our friendliness, hospitality, and pride of culture and country. Leveraging on the presence of Filipinos overseas and the friendships and connections made with foreign nationals where they

are based, the Philippine Government has launched the Bisita, Be My Guest (BBMG) Program, an incentive travel campaign that capitalizes on the sheer number of and famed hospitality and friendliness of Filipinos abroad.

Foreign nationals with Filipino friends and/or who have ties to the Philippines and are travelling to the country within the period 01 January 2023 – 30 April 2024 can participate in the campaign abroad. Filipinos overseas ("sponsors") can register at <https://bbmg.philippines.travel/> to get a unique link, which they can share with their non-Filipino friends traveling to the Philippines and who wish to participate in the program.

Both the Filipino as the sponsor and the foreign national as the "invitee"/visitor have the opportunity to be part of the raffle and win exciting prizes. In addition, participating foreign nationals may avail of a "BBMG Travel Passport" to earn stamps when they visit identified tourist attractions and activities in the following destinations: Ilocos, Cebu, Davao, Bohol, Baguio, Batanes, Bicol, Camiguin, Leyte, Siargao, and the two award-winning Philippine islands, Boracay and Palawan. Participating tourists can

also avail of the BBMG Privilege Card to earn special rates and discounts from accredited tourism enterprises.

Bangladeshis looking for new places to visit during the upcoming holidays should seriously consider visiting the Philippines and have the opportunity to get special discounts and win special prizes through the program. They are encouraged to take the first step to an exciting adventure – tap or re-connect with their Filipino friends, visit and boast of having visited one (or why not both?) of the top islands of the world, and participate in the program.

No Filipino friend/contact yet? Approach one. They are known to be friendly and nice and may invite you to their homes when you visit the Philippines!

For the complete mechanics of the campaign, visit: <https://bbmg.philippines.travel/about/>

**Maria Tanya B. Gaurano,**  
*Third Secretary and Vice Consul,  
Embassy of the Philippines in  
Bangladesh*



White Beach, Boracay Island.

## A salute to courage and freedom



Today, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Filipinos on the joyous occasion of the 125th Independence Day. I pay my respects to the courageous men and women who valiantly fought for the country, and I honor their sacrifices which have paved the way for the freedom. Each soldier is now recognized as a hero.

The resilience of the Filipinos, forged through adversity and symbolized by the archipelago formed from volcanic eruptions 50 million years ago, is truly remarkable. It is this indomitable spirit that empowers them to endure trials, overcome tribulations, and face the horrors of war. We strive to strengthen the bonds with such a formidable nation.

The tourism sector is thriving, witnessing a steady increase in the number of tourists. The Philippines offers incredible business prospects, advancements in medical services, and world-class education, attracting visitors from Bangladesh and beyond, like bees to honey. As we move forward, let us not forget our past but allow the present to pave the way to a bright future. The Philippines, known as the land of the brave and free, holds immense promise.

With our arms linked in a steadfast embrace, we wish the Philippines a long and prosperous journey ahead, fostering a strong and enduring relationship with Bangladesh. On this special day, I extend my well wishes to everyone for a splendid Independence Day celebration.

**Md Anisuzzaman**  
*Director, Bangladesh Philippines  
Chamber Of Commerce And  
Industry (Bpcci).*



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**12<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE**

**Philippines**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**



**Pinoy Travels**

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