

Groundbreaking moment

Supreme Council of Health Chairman lays foundation stone for RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's new academic building

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The Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, laid the foundation stone for the new academic building of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Medical University of Bahrain, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and in the presence of several dignitaries.

The event coincided with the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's ascension to the throne, marking 25 years of His Majesty's reign and on behalf of HRH Prince Salman.

On this occasion, Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, affirmed the unwavering support of HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to continue strengthening and enriching the educa-



H.E. Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa is briefed about the project

tional process and developing its outcomes.

Royal patronage

Prof Ootom expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness for his patronage of the ceremony and expressed his appreciation to Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla for attending the ceremony.

Giving an overview of the pro-

cess, Professor Ootom highlighted, "For 20 years, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain has been committed to educating and developing healthcare leaders in Bahrain and the Middle East.

Today, we are taking a leap forward with the commissioning of an expansion project spanning over 7,912 sqm, which will increase the University's net



Professor Sameer Ootom, President of RCSI, and Mr Ghazi Abdulla Nass, Executive Director, Nass Corporation B.S.C., sign the contract for the construction of the new building. (Pictures By Ashen Tharaka)

usable area by 140%, and feature six areas of development: Teaching, Clinical Simulation, Research, Student Experience, Conferring Ceremony & Events and Office Space.

Prof Ootom added, "This project aligns with our Green Campus initiative by enhancing operational efficiency and environmental stewardship and providing a springboard for fur-

ther progress and opportunities to develop programmes which cater to the needs of the national and regional markets and are in line with our Mission to 'Educate, Nurture and Innovate for the Benefit of Human Health'."

Royal patronage

Mr Ghazi Abdulla Nass, Executive Director, Nass Corporation B.S.C., stated: "We thank His Roy-

al Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for his patronage of the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the New Academic Building of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain for this collaboration opportunity to build together a vision for the future for the Bahraini youth."

Philippine Ambassador pays tribute to nation's heroes

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The Republic of the Philippines will celebrate the 126th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence today.

The Ambassador of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Her Excellency Anne Jalando-On Louis, highlighted the significance of this occasion, marking the birth of the Filipino nation on June 12, 1898, when General Emilio Aguinaldo first unfurled the Philippine flag in Kawit, Cavite.

"We remember our nation's heroes and the valiant men and women who fought for freedom for the Philippines, unwavering in their spirit and resilience

amidst great challenges and adversity," the Ambassador stated.

She expressed pride in the Philippines' rich history as a sovereign state and its active role in the international community.

"We have been at the forefront, either as a lead or a proponent, in the global discourse supporting peace and security; social and gender equity; migration; climate change; and other global issues," Ambassador Jalando-On Louis remarked.

She also emphasised the Philippines' commitment to democratic ideals, universal human rights, justice, the rule of law, and the values of freedom and sovereignty as Asia's earliest modern democracy and republic.

Highlighting the Philippines'

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- HER EXCELLENCY ANNE JALANDO-ON LOUIS, AMBASSADOR OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

strong ties with Bahrain, Ambassador Jalando-On Louis noted,



"The Philippines' longstanding relations with the Kingdom of

Bahrain have been characterized by friendship, respect, and understanding."

Since establishing formal relations in 1978, the two countries have partnered in advancing mutual interests through bilateral cooperation in various fields, including trade, culture, arts, skills training, people-to-people exchanges, migration, and employment.

The Ambassador extended gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the government and people of Bahrain for their support and contributions, which have further strengthened bilateral ties.

Filipino community

Addressing the Filipino community in Bahrain, Ambassador Jalando-On Louis wished them a meaningful and successful commemoration of Philippine Independence.

"May we take heed of the reminder that it is only in unity and solidarity as a community and as a nation that we will be able to achieve our collective goals and safeguard our interests in the true bayanihan spirit," she urged.

She concluded her message with a heartfelt, "Maligayang Araw ng Kasarinlan! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang Pilipino! (Happy independence day! Long live the Philippines! Long live Filipinos!"

'Filipiniana Rondalla' brings Filipino music to Bahrain

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The Philippine Embassy, in collaboration with the Philippine National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and in partnership with Gulf Air, is bringing the Philippine cultural group, "Filipiniana Rondalla", to the Kingdom of Bahrain for a number of performances.

It is part of the Embassy's commemorative activities for the 126th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence today.

The Filipiniana Rondalla will perform at the Dana Mall on 13 June 2024 at 6pm, in conjunction with Lulu Hypermarket's Pinoy Week. They will also stage a concert at the Cultural Hall on 14 June 2024 from 4 to 6pm. For inquiries, please email



The Filipiniana Rondalla will serenade the Kingdom

the Embassy at mamana.pe@dfa.gov.ph.

This cultural project of the Philippine Embassy is also supported by Global Travel & Tours WLL.

The Filipiniana Rondalla was formally launched in 2002 and aims to promote and preserve Philippine culture and arts through rondalla music. The word "rondalla" is from the

Spanish word ronda, meaning "serenade."

Rondalla is an ensemble of stringed instruments that are played with a plectrum or pick.

The instruments used are made of native wood and played with a tortoise-shell plectrum. This form of music originated in Spain and became a popular folk music in the Philippines starting in the 19th century.

Filipino community kicks off Independence Day celebrations



Philippine Ambassador, Her Excellency Anne Jalando-On Louis, with Embassy officers and staff

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An atmosphere brimming with patriotism and unity enveloped the gathering as hundreds of Filipinos residing in Bahrain came together to celebrate the momentous occasion.

In her inspiring message, Ambassador Jalando-On Louis underscored the significance of independence and acknowledged the presence and active response of the Filipino community, leaders, and volunteers.

The event was led by Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain, Her Excellency Anne Jaland-

do-On Louis. She praised their overwhelming participation in the effort, highlighting the collective effort and unity that make such celebrations meaningful.

With sincere appreciation, Ambassador Jalando-On Louis extended her gratitude to the Sacred Heart Catholic church for dedicating the Tagalog mass and providing a space for prayers and protection for the country and its people during this celebration of independence.