



# CONNECTING . . .

## KALAYAAN FILIPINO CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (KFCO)

### Proposed Amendments to KFCO CBL 2017 Passed



Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO) held its annual general membership meeting last 29 Oct. 2017 at the KCCC Media Room. Rodel Meier, KFCO Chairman, made the welcoming speech acknowledging and thanking the support provided by the various associations and groups as well as from the past chairs of the

Organization. The major activities handled / participated by KFCO were reported. While Josie Salac, Treasurer, briefed the audience financial status as of the end of Sept. 2017 fiscal year. Rodel M. mentioned that "KFCO was a team that relied on each other, covered for each other without hesitation".

One of the highlights of the meeting was the referendum on the proposed amendments to KFCO's Constitution and By-Laws (CBL). The process to think about the changes to be put in place for KFCO's CBL started way back in 2011 and was continued on by the various officers of the Organization thereon with the integration of feedback mechanism from its members. Through the raising of hands, with an affirmation of 38 YES votes, the numbers obtained is well within the 2/3 of those present in the meeting to ratify the proposed amendments.

### Elected Executive Council Members

**With the amended KFCO CBL 2017 immediately coming into effect, members of the KFCO Executive Council were nominated / elected. Here are the 2018—2020 officers: Eula Rulloda – Chairman, Val Mape – Vice Chairman, Fely Castelo – Secretary, Fong Tsaur – Treasurer, Fe Tabago – Asst. Treasurer, Josie Salac – Auditor, Marilyn Palileo – Business Manager, Becky Cruz and Rene Sevilla – PRO with Rodel Meier and Ruffy Romano as Advisers.**

### Philippine Festival Mississauga (PFM) Donates to KCCC

Part of the activities that afternoon, was in relation to Philippine Festival Mississauga (PFM) chaired by Linda Carin, wherein the working partners composed of Culture Philippines of Ontario (CPO), Fiesta



Filipina Dance T r o u p e (Fiesta), Kalayaan

Community Cltural Organization (KCCC), and Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO) turned over a donation of \$3600 to KCCC through its current President, Charity Roda.



Signing of Amended KFCO's CBL 2017



### Senator Tobias 'Jun' Enverga, Jr., a tribute

December 2, 1955 – November 16, 2017 (62)



Mga Kababayan,

I wish to convey our heartfelt condolence to the family of Senator Jun Enverga; namely, his wife Rosemer and their 3 children; Rystle, Reeza and Rocel. The Filipino Community in Canada is deeply devastated and saddened at his untimely demise while attending the 14<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of ParIAmericas, the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system, in Medellin, Colombia. The conference was scheduled on November 15-17, Senator Enverga, Jr., representing Canada, died on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Since his appointment to the Senate of Canada or what we described as *sober second thought upper chamber*, on September 6, 2012, many observed that the Pinoy Senator had been burning his candle at both ends. Aside from attending to his normal duties as senator, he was everywhere; at various festivities of Filipino organizations, birthdays, or even funerals in Toronto or in Mississauga, particularly.

Our interactions with the then mere Jun Enverga were during the years when he was the president of PIDC (Philippine Independence Day Council, 2006 - 2009) of Toronto, the equivalent of Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization in Peel Region. The two organizations are devoted to celebrating the Philippine Independence and promoting the Philippine culture in Canada.

While always approachable when he was representing PIDC, he became much closer to the whole Filipino Community when he became Canada's only Filipino senator; remaining very humble and very friendly.

Understandably, the pain of losing a husband to Rosemer and a father to his 3 children was beyond words but his demise is equally felt by the Filipino Community he represented so well, with full dedication and commitment.

According to Statistics Canada, there are at least 662,600 Filipinos in Canada; 275,380 (or 41.6 %) are residing in Ontario; thus, we represent approximately 2% of total population of Ontario and Canada respectively. At the Federal Level, we have 334 Members of the Parliament. At 2%, there should have at least 6 Filipino MPs, instead, we have ZERO. None!

At the Senate, we should have at least 2 senators out of the 105. Instead, we have 1 when Prime Minister appointed Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. on September 6, 2012. And now, the Senator is gone.

But this is the time to celebrate the senator's life and contributions to the Filipino Community. This is the time to express our gratitude for his service.

**Thank you, Jun! Thank you, Senator.** May your family find peace in knowing that you have done more than your share. May your soul rest in peace. Until we meet again!

Gerry Villareal

Past Chairman, Kalayaan



For those who don't know me, I was the one at the right. In the attached picture, I was the one holding the Canadian flag while the senator was on the far right.

**Teamwork: Turnover & Planning**



**KFCO's Executive Council 1st meeting**

A new practical provision of the Amended KFCO's CBL 2017 is:

*Within twenty (20) days after the General Membership meeting where election of members for the KFCO Executive Council was held, shall be the effectivity date of their assumption into office. This will give ample time to put together things that needs to be turned over by the outgoing officers to those assuming their position with KFCO.*

This gave ample time for outgoing officers to prepare accordingly what various items and information that needs to be turned over to incoming KFCO officers.

This is what happened on Nov 21, 2017 meeting where corresponding parties were present to ensure a smooth handover and transition to incoming officers under the new Chairmanship of Eula Rulloda.

Some words of wisdom and valuable advice were shared by outgoing Chairman, Rodel Meier.

It was good to see an atmosphere of enthusiasm and optimism among those present in discussing things that needs to be done, as well as, planning of forthcoming events in 2018.

**CONTACT US AT:**

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## **Our Pioneer Section: Danny Bitanga**

Danny Bitanga is one of the original pioneers of Kalayaan. He started as a Press Officer when Kalayaan was initially formed in 1983. Then becoming its Executive Vice-President in 1984 and 1997. Within those years, he continued on to participate on other activities or as an adviser. Then in 1999, he became the Chairman of Kalayaan.



Danny has established his printing business which is currently being handled by his son. He has been active in his Brampton community as well.

We see Danny still helping out in some of the Kalayaan undertakings like annual picnics, gala nights, Philippine Festival Mississauga or during annual general meetings. He has been sharing his advisory wisdom and knowledge with the officers of the Organization.

In fact in the recently amended KFCO's CBL, the changes on the way how the officers of the Organization would be elected / selected was a result of an innocent telephone conversation with Danny in regard to his role as part of the COMELEC during the AGM of 29 Oct. 2017.

It was through his inputs and knowledge about the election of officers and why he thought it would be beneficial to KFCO's interest that he shared with us that made us take a second look on how KFCO elects its officers.

Going back to the drawing board, KFCO updated its election of officers. Now it is in line with how KCCC and other organizations does it. On the side, I call this the "Danny Bitanga Provision". Such changes were immediately tested and vali-

dated to be practical and workable during the election of new KFCO officers for 2018 - 2020.

### **Planned KFCO Activities for 2018**

1. Feb. 17 - Post Valentine and A Short Induction of New Officers
2. Apr. 28 - Dancing with the Stars . . . dance, dance, dance ..
3. Jun. ?? - Kalayaan Gala Night
4. Jun. 17 - Annual Kalayaan Picnic at Mississauga Valley Park
5. Aug ?? - Philippine Festival Mississauga at Celebration Square