

Thank you so much Ambassador Romualdez

Thank you Labatt Angging for the kind words.

And thank you for the generous support you have extended during my stay here in the post.

As most of you know by now, i am leaving on feb.6 and will be retiring on feb 22, my 65th bday.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the warm friendship from the time I arrived, and the teamwork we had since 2018.

I will surely miss my colleagues especially from the polo & consular team.

2020 was the year that never was as quoted by congen jv. It was a tough year for all of us, most especially for me, when i lost the love of my life at a time when the world was already in grief w/the pandemic.

But the sadness has been assuage by our embassy team who created a pleasant environment to work in, and with the dynamic, collective work that helped me face the challenges in the process.

In my 3 decades of government service & 5 posts overseas, i was privileged to work with the cream of the crop of the dept of foreign affairs, particularly the esteemed heads of missions like amba buensuceso, amba alicia ramos, ambassador lecaros, whom i have shared my baptism of fire in the overseas assignment during the flor contemplacion brouhaha in singapore.

I had the chance to also work with the amiable ambassador cristobal & the illustrious amba siazon in tokyo at the time when the overseas performing artists were banned for deployment as phl then was in tier 3 in trafficking of women.

I experienced the debt crisis in greece and was tasked to open the polo owwa office in nicosia cyprus.

When i was given the washington dc assignment, i was glad to know that the us ambassador is ambassador babes romualdez . I have known amba romualdez in the 80's when he was the acct executive & newscaster of rpn 9, w/harry gasser & frank evangelista. I was then the program budget manager in charge of their contracts & the signing of their talent fee checks.

Rpn 9 was my last job in the private sector before joining owwa. And as fate would have it, my last posting as a public servant would be to work together again with amba babes.

My stay in the us gave me a new perspective of this nation, as ive seen firsthand real democracy at its best amidst the health and political crisis in these past several months. I realized that my us stint was indeed overwhelming.

my job as a welfare officer in this post may look like a walk in the park compared to spore or the mid east. But i also realized that every culture & work buddies present a new perspective in the welfare job.

Having experienced the "ofw diplomacy" in the last 3 decades is something that has to be learned thru in-depth experience— empathy included—and genuine understanding of the psyche of the ofws. It is not enough that we have compassion. The knowledge about govt policies, the overseas protocols and the eagerness to learn more from our colleagues are of utmost importance in this job. \

And so i assure that the incoming welfare officer, a veteran owwa officer, will be also be a team player.

I am now looking forward to enjoying my retirement with my family and friends. And i hope those of you who have become my close friends over the years will be able to keep in touch and that you will find the time to come visit me and join me with my new activities ...

I am active in facebook so you wont miss me

Again maraming salamat po mr ambassador, dcm, congen jv, consular team and most of all the polo team.