



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE NO. 18-2020

### CONSUL GENERAL PROVIDES UPDATES ON THE SITUATION OF THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN THE U.S. MIDWEST DURING BROADCAST INTERVIEW

Chicago, 20 May 2020 – During a live Philippine broadcast interview, Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin reported on the status of the Filipino community in the U.S. Midwest. She assured the public that the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago continues to provide emergency and other available services while its personnel are working from home, and is taking comprehensive preparatory measures to prepare for re-opening.

Consul General Jamoralin was interviewed by Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar and Undersecretary Rocky Ignacio during a segment of the Laging Handa Briefing on 20 May 2020 at 11:00 AM Philippine Time (19 May 2020 10:00 PM Central Standard Time).

The interview was conducted via phone patch, and was broadcast by PCOO and PTV4. It was also shown live on the Laging Handa and DFA Facebook pages, which was shared by Post on its own Facebook page. The discussion revolved around the situation of Filipinos in the U.S. Midwest, and Post's efforts in addressing their concerns amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Consul General Jamoralin reported that there were more than 90,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois, and nearly 300,000 in total in the Midwest. She noted that of the more than 328,000 Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the region, there were 42 reported cases, with 17 in Illinois and 18 in Michigan. Unfortunately, 17 of them have succumbed to the disease. 17 of the 42 cases involve medical front liners, and 8 of them have passed away. Healthcare workers born in the Philippines comprise the largest ethnic group in the United States. She also shared that the Consulate has been assisting distressed Filipinos in the region, including participants of the Exchange Visitor Program.

She also provided details on the #MidwestBayanihan initiatives of the Filipino organizations, restaurants and individuals across the Midwest that have fostered greater unity, generosity and selflessness within the community. They have continuously provided food and PPEs to front liners, made and distributed face masks to the community, and provided much-needed assistance to hospitals and communities in the Philippines. Front liners have also provided testimonials on their fight against the disease and provided sound advice for members of the community to stay home, wear masks when outside and practice social distancing guidelines. She expressed appreciation for the efforts and urged them to continue collective efforts and vigilance amid the pandemic.

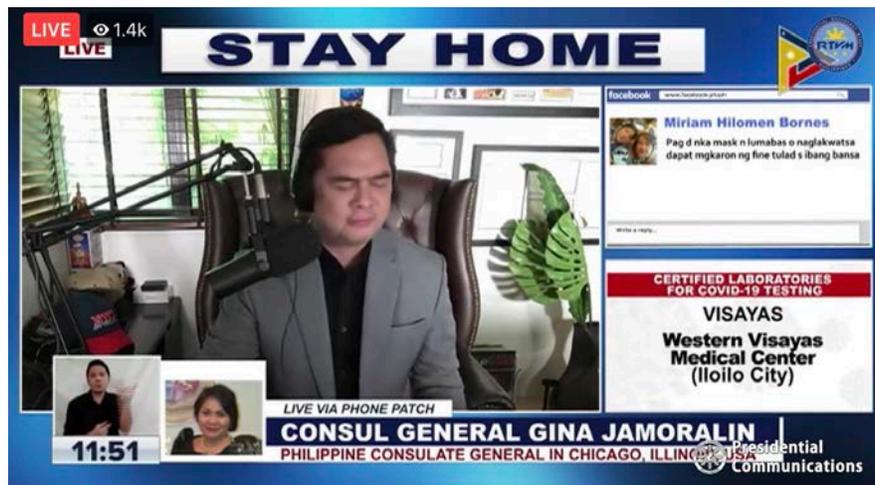
Consul General Jamoralin also shared that despite working from home due to the Illinois Stay-at-Home Order, the personnel of the Philippine Consulate continue to serve the public by promptly responding to queries and requests, processing civil registry applications (e.g., report of birth, report of marriage, and report of death) submitted through mail, and providing assistance to distressed nationals. She also assured the public that the Consulate is preparing to gradually re-open the Consulate office in line with *Restore Illinois*, which is currently in *Phase 2 – Flattening*. The Consulate will be able to gradually provide more services once Illinois moves up to *Phase 3 – Recovery* and beyond, with proper social distancing and other protocols to ensure the health and safety of the public and its personnel.

Secretary Andanar and Undersecretary Ignacio thanked the Consul General and hoped Consulate personnel and the community would remain safe and healthy.

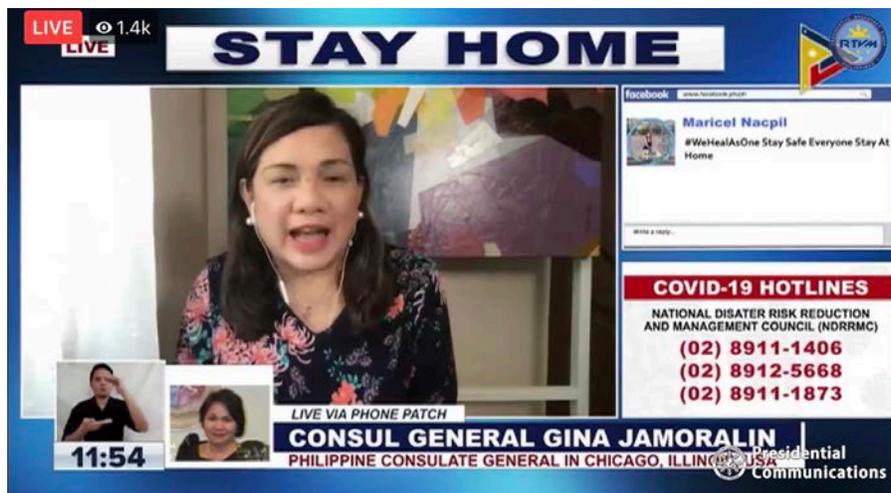
For more information, the public is advised to visit [www.chicagopcg.com](http://www.chicagopcg.com) and follow the Facebook and Twitter accounts of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago (@PHinChicago). Those with urgent concerns or emergencies may call the Consulate Duty Officer at 312-800-3106. **END**



Screen capture of the Lagin Handa interview of Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin



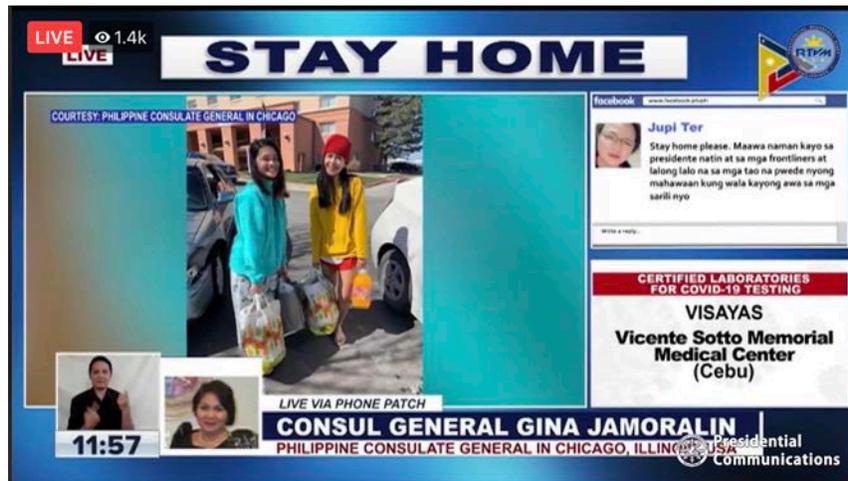
PCOO Sec. Martin Andanar listens as Consul General Jamoralin replies to a question.



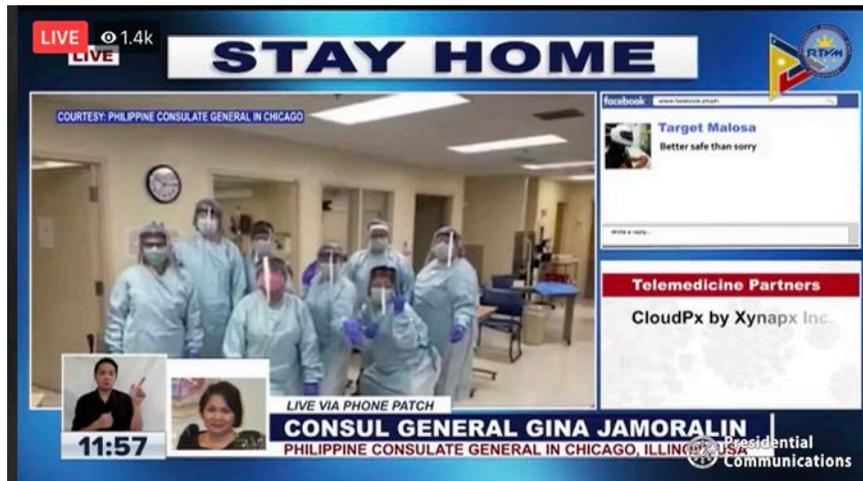
PCOO Usec. Rocky Ignacio asks Consul General Jamoralin a question.



Screen capture of photo of one of the #Midwest Bayanihan initiatives



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