

Guimaras, Bensalem, PA to finalize sister-state link

Written by Tambi Wycoco

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Guimaras governor calls on Bensalem, Pennsylvania mayor preparatory to signing an agreement between the two governments to become sister states under the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) sister city, state, program. Shown in the photo are from left to right: Joaquin R. Nava, former governor and congressman of Guimaras island province; Nida Imperial, President, Filipino Executive Council of Philadelphia, Pa.; Pennsylvania State Representative Gene Di Girolamo; Bensalem, Pa. Mayor Joseph “Joe” DiGirolamo; Ernesto Gange, Chairman of the USA-Philippines Friendship Commission and Chairman and Founder of the International Network of Filipinos Overseas (INFO); Guimaras Gov. Samuel Tayo Gumarin, MD, MPH; Pennsylvania State Sen. Tommy Tomlinson; Member of the Philippine House of Representatives Dr. Lucille L. Nava; Ambassador Mario L. de Leon, Jr., past Consul General of the Philippines in New York and this year’s Honorary Grand Marshal of the Philippine Independence Day Parade; Guimaras Vice Gov. Edward Gando, Esq.; Deputy Consul General of the Philippines in New York Kerwin Orville C. Tate, who is currently the acting Head of Post (Consulate General); Hermie Aczon, Ruth Luyun and Cyril Beltran, member of the

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Guimaras Board. Kneeling are some of the girls of the Guimaras Festival dancers. (Photo by Tambi Wycoco)

BENSALEM, PA. (iiNNS) — Officials of the island province of Guimaras in the Iloilo region of the Southern Philippines paid a courtesy call on officials of Bensalem, Pennsylvania preparatory to finalizing an agreement to be linked as Sister-States under the Sister City, State program of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The Guimaras delegation was led by Gov. Samuel T. Gumarin, MD, MPH of Guimaras island province in the Iloilo region of the Philippines who paid a courtesy call on officials of Bensalem, Pennsylvania led by Mayor Joseph “Joe” DiGirolamo at Bensalem’s City Hall.

The Guimaras delegation came replete with its more-than-30-member Guimaras dancers contingent of teenage boys and girls who were in the area after being featured in the Philippine Independence Day celebrations in New York.

While on their call on Bensalem officials, the Guimaras dancers, gayly dressed in their colorful costumes, also performed several dances from their wide repertoire to the shrieking delight of the locals.

According to a source from the Guimaras government, the formal papers finalizing the sister-state agreement are being finalized and will be ready for signatures by the two governments within the next few weeks.