

Philippine Ambassador Presents Credentials to Hungarian President



Budapest, 16 June 2025 – Her Excellency Maria Elena P. Algabre, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Hungary, formally presented her credentials to His Excellency Dr. Tamás Sulyok, President of Hungary, during official ceremonies held at the historic Sándor Palace in Budapest, on 16 June 2025.



Ambassador Alagab, accompanied by First Secretary Ria E. Gorospe, Attaché Sheridan B. Sabeniano, and Labor Attaché Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla, was received with full military honors by the Commander of the Budapest Garrison. The ceremonial rites, rooted in Hungary's diplomatic tradition, included an audience with President Sulyok in the Hall of Mirrors.



In a subsequent bilateral meeting in the Blue Salon, both officials reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen Philippines-Hungary relations, now in their 52nd year. They agreed to sustain the increasing engagements between the Philippines and Hungary in different areas, including the frequent interactions between senior officials and parliamentarians. They noted the expanding cooperation in several areas such as trade, agriculture, water management, education, labor mobility, and emerging areas such as digital science and space research.



On President Sulyok's acknowledgement of the two countries shared democratic values and Christian heritage, Ambassador Alagab commented that these are excellent foundations of the long-standing ties and partnership between the Philippines and Hungary. She highlighted the

symbolic link between Philippine national hero and novelist Dr. José Rizal and celebrated Hungarian revolutionary and poet Sándor Petőfi, both intellectuals and artists who fought for their respective countries' freedom.

People-to-people exchanges have also been flourishing between the two countries. Ambassador Algabre thanked Hungary for the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships awarded annually to deserving Filipino students, and also noted the increasing number of self-funded Filipino students in Hungarian universities, who have found Hungary a good place to pursue higher education.

President Sulyok expressed appreciation for the opening of the Philippine Labor Office in Hungary and the valuable contributions of overseas Filipino workers in Hungary. Describing the OFWs as a positive force, Ambassador Algabre paid tribute to their contributions not only to the Philippines, but also to the Hungarian economy and society.



Following the ceremony at Sándor Palace, the Ambassador led a wreath-laying tribute at Heroes' Square, honoring Hungary's national heroes and symbolizing the Philippines' respect for both the enduring friendship between two countries.



The presentation of credentials marks the formal start of Ambassador Algabre's mission in Hungary and signals a renewed chapter of closer Philippine-Hungarian relations. END