

## **HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL DAVID ZUELLIG**

**Opera de Monte-Carlo, 21 mai 2024**

*Son Excellence Jacques Boisson, Secrétaire d'État honoraire,  
Son Excellence Juniver Mahilum-West, Ambassadrice des Philippines,  
Monsieur Marc Lecourt, Président de l'Association des Consuls  
Honoraires de Monaco, et à tous nos distingués invités chers  
collègues du Corps Consulaire honoraire, les membres de l'Association  
Philippine de Monaco, Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis, chers  
compatriotes, une chaleureuse bienvenue à vous tous. Magandang gabi  
po sa inyong lahat.*

Today, we celebrate the Independence Day of our beautiful country, the Philippines. For this evening's event, in the programme, we present to you the rare Philippine Eagle, one of our nation's revered symbols. It is endemic to the forests of the Philippines but unfortunately it has been declared a "critically endangered species", with now only a little more than 600 eagles existing in the wild. Our country has embarked on an extensive conservation program to save it. And there are many others like sea turtles, dolphins, birds-- all in danger of extinction and needing efforts to conserve them. Our conservation projects very much parallel the mission of the government of Monaco.

Tonight, we will highlight images of the beauty of the Philippines, as we listen to the world-class talent of Dr. Raul Sunico who has honored us with his presence tonight.

Filipinos are known to be hardworking, hospitable and friendly. We also love music and with this piano recital, we hope you all could appreciate the quality of our artistry and richness of our culture.

Thank you all for coming tonight. Enjoy the show. *Bon spectacle à tous!*