

# 355 Filipinos Take Licensure Board Examination

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Dec. 3--ABU DHABI -- As many as 355 Filipino degree holders across the emirates turned out on Wednesday in [Abu Dhabi](#) for the first Special Professional Licensure Board Examination (SPLBE) ever conducted in the UAE.

The examination was conducted by representatives of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) of the Philippines, an agency responsible for regulating and supervising the practice of professional individuals according to knowledge base and practice, who were in the region to carry out board examinations for Filipino professionals at Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The examinees included graduates of electronics, electrical, mechanical and civil engineering; architecture and accountancy, who were first time takers and repeaters. The examination, which was held at the Philippine National School and Pioneers International Private School, will continue today for engineering and architecture and tomorrow for Certified Public Accountants (CPA) from 8am to 5pm.

Joel Bajador, board member of electronics engineering and discipline supervisor at PRC, said the board examination was introduced in the region this year following an executive order by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The Executive Order 835 institutionalises the conduct of board examination in the Middle East," said Bajador.

"Many of our degree holders usually get hired abroad immediately after graduation, and once they start working they do not have the time to take their board exam. PRC was ordered to conduct this examination every year so that Filipinos need not have to go home for this," he added.

"We started off with engineering, architecture and CPA, but a plan is underway to include nursing and teaching pretty soon," Bajador disclosed.

Results of the examinations will be published on December 17-20 at the PRC website and at Philippine newspapers.

According to Jethrophil Ramboyong from the Filipino Professional Group, the organiser of the SPLBE in the UAE, reviews were conducted in Abu Dhabi and Dubai by different organisations for their members.

"The professional organisations have initiated conducting the reviews for their members from June till November, while others opted to do a self review," Ramboyong, who is also the president of the Institute of

Electronics Engineering of the Philippines-UAE Chapter, told Khaleej Times.

"This is my third time to take the board exam for CPA and I am thankful for the Philippine government for giving us the chance to take it here. I hope to pass it this time," said Bernadette Balagot who works as an accounting staff in Abu Dhabi.

To prepare herself for the test, Balagot said she joined a review class conducted by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) every Friday and has also subscribed to the online review of the Professional Review Training Centre (PRTC) in the Philippines.