28 February 2016

Minister for Business Peter Styles has joined Chef and YouTube sensation Chris Urbano to cook up what is thought to be a world-first culinary combination of the iconic Filipino dish Adobo using crocodile meat and Vegemite.

Minister Styles said Chef Urbano was visiting Darwin ahead of his Filipino Masterchef Challenge to be held in April as part of the inaugural Open Territory program of events.

“As a father of three children I’ve done my fair share of cooking but I have to say today was certainly a first, I can safely say I’ve never made a Vegemite Crocodile Adobo,” Mr Styles said.

“It was fantastic to see Chef Urbano utilise iconic Northern Territory produce combined with an Aussie favourite and wrap it all into a Filipino classic dish which also tasted great.

“Chef Urbano is a Tagalog-speaking Australian who has turned his passion for the people, culture and food of the Philippines into a YouTube success story through his channel Maputing Cooking.

“He is an expert in utilising different types of produce and combining it with traditional Filipino recipes and cooking techniques.

“Territorians can also learn some of these skills at Chef Urbano’s Masterchef Challenge in April during which he’ll pass on some of the fundamentals of Filipino cooking re-imagined with a Top End twist.

“The Open Territory program is all about promoting Northern Territory businesses and industries such as hospitality and food tourism, trade opportunities and our produce interstate and internationally so Chris Urbano is the perfect accompaniment.”

Chef Urbano reaches a global Filipino audience through his YouTube cooking channel.

The first ever Open Territory program of events has received excellent support with over 100 partner events now scheduled from March through to May.

Mr Styles said other highlights of the inaugural Open Territory would include the two-day Territory Taste festival and the Northern Australia Food Futures Conference – showcasing Territory produce, hospitality industry and food tourism potential.
In the trade and investment sphere, the Red Carpet Investor Forum will welcome back attendees of the Northern Australia Investment Forum including a number of high profile investors.

There will be a Business Technology Conference and Expo, an annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar and the Mining Services Expo among many other events.

Chef Urbano’s Filipino Masterchef includes:

**Cooking Competition**

When: Saturday, 16 April 2016.

Where: Filipino Club.

Register: (08) 8946 9552 or email hannah.mcclure@nt.gov.au

**Filipino Fair**

When: Sunday, 17 April 2016, 2pm – 5pm.

What: Family friendly fiesta with Filipino music, games and trivia.

Where: On the lawns at the Territory Taste Festival at the Darwin Convention Centre.

More information is available at [www.openterritory.nt.gov.au](http://www.openterritory.nt.gov.au)

**Media Contact:** Rebecca Barr: 0407 284 066