



EDITORIAL

Nurturing Phl-Israel strong ties

President Rodrigo Duterte made history again when he flew to Israel, becoming the first Philippine leader to do so. And in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he said he was hopeful that ties between the Philippines and Israel will continue to flourish over the years, even as he assured the Israeli leader that Filipinos will continue to extend their help as they did when they received Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. Mr. Duterte, who visited the Holocaust Memorial there, said both the Philippines and Israel shares the passion for peace, for human beings, and the desire not to allow their countries to be destroyed by corrupt ideologies. “In this sense, Israel can expect any help that the Philippines can extend to your country,” he said.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, said he was “deeply moved” by the Philippines’ show of humanity since former president Manuel Quezon allowed the entry of some 1,300 Jewish refugees to the country. “We remember the exceptional role of the Philippines that received Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. We remember that the Philippines was the only Asian country that voted for the establishment of the State of Israel in the UN resolution in 1947,” Netanyahu said. “I, like many, many Israeli families, have (been) deeply moved by this show of humanity,” he added.

Netanyahu also described how Filipino caregivers, some 30,000 of them in Israel, have taken care of the Israeli elderly as a “remarkable phenomenon” as someone who has experienced it first-hand. “I am one of those families, Mr. President. My late father died at the age of 102. In his later years, (he) received incredible care by a caregiver from the Philippines, a woman who has exceptional compassion and intelligence. She took care of my father’s every need. And when he passed away, she took care of his brother’s niece until he passed away,” the Israeli Prime Minister said after witnessing the signing of three agreements -- the Memorandum of Agreement on the Employment of Filipino Caregivers, Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation, and Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Investments and Invest in Israel. “This is an exceptional agreement and I think heralds the kind of friendship that we are developing,” Netanyahu added.

We congratulate President Duterte and Prime Minister Netanyahu for their newfound friendship and alliance that augurs well for the two countries.

Upside welcomes following guest column in advance of October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month

What ‘Kumare’ means

By Nellie Hizon
Part 1

DALY CITY, Calif. - Being a Kumare, as we members of ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment call ourselves, we have a heightened awareness of dating and domestic abuse, or what is now known as intimate partner violence.

We teach what we learn from clinicians, advocates, survivors and perpetrators, about the dynamics of healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships. Next month, October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are holding our 14th annual Free from Violence Presentation and Resource Provider Fair 5-7:30 pm, Oct. 12, at Colma Community Center. The town of Colma, the Philippine Consulate General and Asian American Recovery Services - Healthright 360 are sponsoring what is also our 15th anniversary celebration.

Public officials will call the community to action against domestic violence. The family that lost a loved one in a fatal attack by an ex-boyfriend will share their testimony. Resource providers will consult about their services.

At every ALLICE event, I personally return to the time and situation that brought me here in the first place.

SUPPORTIVE WITNESS

We humans instinctively know when we are being violated, but several other thoughts run through our mind at the same time, thinking it is not really happening. “Whom do I talk to? Where can I go? What can I do?”

This was the case with a young student (Tomoko, not her real name) I met in early 2000. She reluctantly but trustingly, and sporadically confided to me that her newly married husband had begun to be very jealous, had watched her every move, and more, that made her feel she became quite a prisoner. Over several months, after having their first child, the situation worsened: she was tied to a chair so she could not go out in one of her husband’s fit of anger.

Then came a day when she called to inform me that she had managed to escape. The husband was in a shower, the baby was asleep. She was to check in a hotel for two nights because the shelter she was going to would have a space available only after the weekend. She was so scared. She had cautiously consulted an agency about her situation that arrangements were made to place her in a shelter.

I took her to my place for the weekend instead of the hotel, for there we had security. I instructed the guard not to let anybody in who wanted to see me, as I was not expecting any guest.

Tomoko and I went out to get her personal supplies and had dinner. When we returned, a notice from the police was posted on my door that required me and her to check in at Taraval station, the nearest.

A missing person report had been filed with me believed to have her. The husband had reported her missing, and suspected that I was helping her: I was a witness to their civil wedding in San Francisco City Hall where my address was shown. He figured, Tomoko had very few close friends and I was her go-to person.

To be concluded.



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