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FMAP President's Anniversary Message

Dear *fellow FMAP members*,

I hope everyone is well and staying safe in the midst of this Expanded Community Quarantine.

This major Black Swan event that is besieging our country and the world will be recorded in the annals of history as life changing, as well as a new phase in the evolution of man and culture, of businesses, and of government. It is history in the making and a major occurrence for future generations to look back on and analyze. We can foresee the oncoming change that needs to be done in our habits, lifestyles, practices, relationships, and choices as a new normal for us to bounce back.

I say this because the effects to our country, to our citizens, and to humanity is expected to be devastating. All sectors of the economy and society are being affected. Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises are bearing the brunt of difficult times ahead. So too with our labor force, both in the formal and informal segments of the economy. The less fortunate members of our population are feeling the pain more as they have been squeezing in small spaces for so many days during this ECQ waiting for dole-outs that the government is finding hard to execute and distribute. And worst of all, we take sympathy towards our Medical staff and supporting frontline personnel, the heroes during this Covid-19 spread, as they work long and solid hours trying to flatten the curve and putting their lives at risk of catching the virus and avoiding death, an occurrence sad to say that had become prevalent.

But despite the gloom and sadness we see, we still find the best in people shining all around. Big businesses, while also feeling negative effects to their operations, are still making lot of sacrifices in order to support their employees and help ease the dilemma of government in addressing this pandemic's negative effect to the employed and unemployed. Diverse Individuals are rallying friends, families and even strangers trying to find means of providing the necessary help in alleviating the plight of our frontliners and less fortunate fellow citizens. Various organizations and foundations likewise, are pursuing efforts at putting together activities in order to complement government efforts to contain the spread and keep deaths low.

It is with this in mind that your FMAP Board agreed to do away with the celebration of our 23rd Anniversary. Instead, we decided to heed the call for help of our fellow citizens in fighting this fight and sustaining the survival of our fellow Filipinos - and to "Heal as One". In pursuing this, we have so far made the following actions:

1. Donated Php150,000.00 last March 20 to QUIRINO MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER to fund their PPE shortage;
2. Purchased PPE worth Php150,000.00 last Mar 23 for delivery to the PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL;
3. Donated Php50,000.00 last March 27 to the Feeding Program spearheaded by CARITAS MANILA;
4. Donated Php50,000.00 last April 2 to the Feeding Program of ANDREW'S FUND PH;
5. Donated an additional Php50,000.00 last April 20 to the Feeding Program spearheaded by CARITAS MANILA.

These donations are but small contributions of our Association in trying to fight this Covid-19 spread. We are not stopping here as we still have the capacity to help. I hope that our decision to postpone festivities is taken positively by everyone. Anyway, we can all celebrate quietly in our own little way, in our respective homes as we follow quarantine protocols, and in our hearts knowing we are doing our share for our survival, for humanity's survival.

I wish everyone a Blessed Anniversary and wish we shall see each other again... when this is all over.

God Speed!


Noel Reyes