

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

BY Atty. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity..." (Deuteronomy 28:41, the Holy Bible).

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DUTERTE'S "CHARM", "MAGIC" BROUGHT BACK 150 OFWs: Call it magic or charm, or whatever other language anyone may seem appropriate, but it would no longer be material at this point. What is important was that, through the appeals made by President Duterte, some 150 overseas Filipinos workers (OFWs) who have been jobless for quite sometime in Saudi Arabia have now been brought back to the Philippines, free of charge.

The uncertainty of what was to happen to them while they were in Saudi Arabia, and the legal complications brought about by their expired visas and other immigration problems, were much too much to bear for the OFWs, and for their families as well. It was therefore heaven-sent for all of them that Duterte managed to convince Saudi officials to allow them to finally go home.

There is a dearth of information about how Duterte did it, but I would like to venture an informed guess: perhaps, Duterte simply asked for it from King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, urging compassion for the long-suffering OFWs. King Salman, on the other hand, perhaps wasn't able to say "no", since Duterte had not asked anything for himself, but was concerned only about his countrymen.

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ALL IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL? MORE PROBLEMS COMING: All is well that ends well? Maybe, but as news reports indicate, there are more OFWs in the Middle East and in many other parts of the world who have been ousted from their works, or who have been made to undergo great abuses from their employers, that needed to be flown back to their families in the Philippines.

These OFWS have tasted already much grief, too, and they have to be attended to likewise by President Duterte. But this is going to require not just more legwork, more maneuvers and therefore more time to be executed satisfactorily, but also more prayers and spiritual strengthening on the part of the OFWs themselves and their families.

I am saying this because I am aware that suffering and tribulation have been prophesied to happen for our OFWs—whether in the Middle East, or in other parts of the world. The prophecies are quite clear, and, to someone like me who adheres to what is written in the Bible where these prophecies were laid down, I am certain that something can be done to address the problem.

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SENDING OFWs ABROAD IS A CURSE FROM GOD: Let us read what the Bible said about OFWs, in a manner of speaking, of course. In Deuteronomy 28:15 and 32, it is there written: “If you no longer listen to God and no longer obey His commands, He will send you these curses... Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand.”

Clearly, this was a prophecy that is being played out and is being fulfilled right now in the Philippines. Due to lack of sufficient employment opportunities, our sons and daughters are forced to seek work abroad, where they are most often abused, maimed, and even killed, even for no reason at all. Why has this fate befallen our countrymen?

It is because as a whole nation, Filipinos no longer sincerely listen to, nor obey, God—which is the triggering mechanism for this misfortune or curse from Him. Consequently, if we want to stop this forced migration of our children towards other countries, or eliminate their sufferings while abroad, we must listen to, and obey, God more sincerely and truthfully.

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