

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

It surprised the heck out of me.

Like that TV ad on a battery that keeps going and going and going, the comments and feedbacks on my “Philippines, my Philippines, ‘WaWa We’” story keep coming ... and coming ... and coming.

Not only from one group of people, but from different groups of people, from everywhere, from California to Florida, from Canada, from the Philippines and from the Middle East.

Majority of the comments were from Balikbayans, who have seen the Philippines up close ... and their common comments were of the “EXTREME POVERTY” that they saw there.

And that each time they would visit the
Philippines
, “the DETERIORATION there ...
lalung lumalala
!”

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

“One after the other, the country has been ruled by useless and corrupt administrations,” one fellow Balikbayan said. And another pointed out that “after President Ferdinand Marcos fell and got run out of the country, its slow demise and slide down the gutter, began.”

“The Pearl of the Orient has become the armpit of Asia,” another one added.

I think I hit a nerve of so many Fil-Ams with these stories, that if I am going to compile all the comments, it will take several pages of this publication to fit them all in. Heck, maybe, I’ll compile some of them in my next column.

I’ve never gotten so many comments for any of my stories I’ve written before.

Comments from Iowa

Even my son, Chris, a broadcast journalist and an Emmy-Award nominee of KGAN, an affiliate of CBS TV station, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who usually keeps mum on my Barako stories, commented: ***“Pops ... I liked your story. I forwarded it to Jaclyn (Chris’s fiancé and also a broadcast journalist) and her family, and they enjoyed it, too.***

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

“You simply reported the facts and truths about what you have observed there.□ That’s what journalists do.

You can’t let your personal beliefs or biases skew the truth.

It’s like the slogan of Fox News: ‘We report, You Decide.’

I am looking forward to the next column.”

Editor’s Notes: To read the articles that the columnist has written about Chris, please click on the following hyperlinks:

[More-than a Chip Off the Old Block](#)

[Jesse's Son Wins Wyoming Broadcasters' Awards](#)

Comments from San Diego, CA

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

A nother journalist, Romy P. Marquez of San Diego, California, the editor/publisher of *PhilVoice News*

said:

“Pareng Jesse ... Thanks for the heads-up.

**Masaya at malungkot yung
story
mo**

“As you said, so many things have changed, or have gone down the drain, among them the demise of Philippine Marines guarding Jose Rizal (his remains mainly buried underneath the monument; well, JR is now a security guard at Seafood City supermarket here) ...

“One good thing though is your namesake Kapeng Barako which, happily, they still serve there. I would have done the same thing you did – gulp the brew cup after cup until the caffeine gives you a high. Well, mabuti hindi ka nalasing!

“How could our people betray our very own Kapeng Barako for Starbucks? That would be a good story.

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

“I like the first part of your story as much as this second.□ Very informative, revealing and, as they say in journalism lingo, straight from the shoulder.

Best regards.”

So, now, where was I? Where did I stop in my last column? I think I was in Tagaytay, at the Taal Vista Lodge, looking at those beautiful God-made mountains and gulping cups of *Kapeng Barako*.

Yes, it was so beautiful up there, and so clean and the air so fresh and the quietness of the mountains so calming.

TAGATAY HIGHLANDS: While there, a tall, pleasant-looking young man approached us and offered us a free tour of Tagaytay Highlands, a new real-estate development of “condos” up there in the sky of Tagaytay. Curious to see what this young man has to sell, we went with him in a van.

Through winding narrow roads, we rode. Then, passed a gate guarded by armed guards, we followed more winding, narrow, manicured, rolling roads all the way to the inner sanctum of this development.

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

And I tell ya, what I saw took my breath away. It was like a dream. It was like entering paradise. He showed us a model unit and I went straight to the patio and what I saw before me was “God’s Little Acre.”

And if only I had then the million of pesos that was required to make a down payment on one of the condos there, I would have done it.

I wanted a piece of that acre and lived the rest of my life there. I think I am going to ...

Leaving that place to go back to Manila was like waking up from a beautiful dream into a horrible real-life nightmare. On the way back to Manila, we passed through Imus and Bacoor ... the pollution, the gutted roads, the holes in the roads, the chaos and the madness in those two towns, well, was like HELL!

I looked around me.

I did not see any trees or any plants growing.

They all have perished from the pollution and from the thick layers of dust and from the stench of the trash and garbage that littered the road.

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

Grabe talaga ...

Sen. Bong Revilla, a former action movie star, who championed in the halls of Philippine Congress the two PORNO women of the famed Kho-Halili/Kho-Maricas Reyes triple-x films ... *hindi ba taga Cavite 'to?*

Instead championing porno women and reviewing their performances on films, he should be championing for the infrastructure of Cavite and fixing those roads.

E ***ditor's Notes***: To read more of Jesse Jose's take on Senator Revilla and the Dr. Kho porno films, please click on this link, [Why Do Filipinos Talk About the Kho-Halili Sex Video Instead of Foreign Pedophiles, the "Abortion Doctors" and the Arroyo Corruption Scandals?](#)

KOREAN-OWNED PHILIPPINE BEACHES: With relatives tagging along, children and all, we went to Subic Bay, Zambales. Not bad. That former U.S. Naval Station that has become a Freeport Center seemed to be well-maintained, flourishing and thriving. Instead of people, we saw a lot of wild monkeys crossing the winding roads. That was interesting. There were trees and plants everywhere and very green.

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

A few miles from there, we went to a zoo as a treat for the children, and then we headed down to the beaches. Entry to the beaches has been walled in and has become private commercial properties owned mostly by Koreans ... and so we had to pay to get in, to the beaches.

When I was in the U.S. Navy, stationed at the naval base there, those beaches used to be free and opened to the public.

Now, they are owned by frigging Koreans ...

The Chinese own the mushrooming malls; the Japanese, the five-star hotels; the Americans, most of the resort areas ... whereas the Filipinos in their own native land, own the small little stinking shacks that litter everywhere ... that seems to be the picture I get there ... So sad, indeed.

HAPPY MOMENTS WITH RELATIVES: Though it was sad for me to see the Motherland in such a sorry state, I had wonderful, happy moments seeing my brother, Soc, and his beautiful family.

And I told him that. I also told him that I love

him, “

kahit

paminsan-minsan lang kitang nakikita

.”

Together, we visited Itay’s burial plot at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Novaliches.

We uttered a prayer for Itay and told Itay that we were just dropping by.

We left him a bouquet of flowers and two burning candles.

I think Itay would have preferred a bottle of Ginebra.

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

I had fun talking with the nieces of my wife, the sisters, Khela and Joy. I had a wonderful time with Corey, who became our tour guide, and her son, Josan. And Corey’s kasambahay, Aning, and Rio, the master cook of pinakbet.

It was good to see Minda and her son, Ogie Boy, and his children, Patricia and Tim Boy.

And Minda’s 13-year-old adopted son, Gelo.

And ... Protacio, my “partner in crime” here in Seattle, who went “home” there years ago and stayed. He looked mighty fine. Hiyang sa kanya ang Pilipinas.

It was also good to see Mycel, who is so grown-up now ... and the old folks, Kuya Dads, Ate Meng, Ate Chit and Kuya Jun.

And, of course, Bianca, who was the reason for our trip to this **“Land of ‘WaWa We’, Philippines, my P**
hilippines
.”

Written by

Saturday, 17 October 2009 07:25 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 October 2009 08:05

That’s all.

JJ

#

Editor’s Notes: To read the first two parts of this series, please click on the following hyperlinks:

[Philippines, my Philippines, the Land of “Wawa We”](#)

[Philippines, my Philippines . . . the Land of “WaWa We” \(Part II\)](#)

[Joomla SEO powered by JoomSEF](#)