

A Parable of What (Filipino) Life Is All About . . . - MabuhayRadio

Written by Gov. Ben Sanchez

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A boat docked in a tiny village in the Island of Palawan (South Philippines). An American tourist complimented the Palawan fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

"Not very long," answered the Palaweño.

"But then, why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?" asked the American.

The Palaweño explained that his small catch was sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family.

The American asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, and take a siesta with my wife. In the evenings, I go into the village to see my friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs. I have a full life."

The American interrupted, "I have a BA from Notre Dame and MBA from Harvard and I can help you! You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat."

"And after that?" asked the Palaweño.

"With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one

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and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to Puerto Princesa, Cebu, or even Manila! From there you can direct your huge new enterprise."

"How long would that take?" asked the Palaweño.

"Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years," replied the American.

"And after that?"

"Afterwards? Well my friend, that's when it gets really interesting," answered the American, laughing. "When your business gets really big, you can start buying and selling stocks and make millions!"

"Millions? Really? And after that?" asked the Palaweño.

"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the sea, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying the company of your friends."

The moral of the story? *Know where you're going in life . . . you may already be there.*

Editor's Notes: Governor Sanchez can be reached at altez91@gmail.com . He welcomes readers' feedbacks as hearing from readers interest him a lot.

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