BETWEEN POINTS

by:
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There are points in every line that are too risky to take but too precious when met.

The letters in the alphabet, the shapes in every art, the road signs, the interior design of our house, the mountains, and even your last breath – are made of lines – and each line started with a point. Between those points are thousand stories of hope, encouragement, disappointment and failure. Today, we are at the same point – the point between life and death against COVID-19.

COVID-19 pandemic made a major twist in our life. Every day, a lot of people die, a lot of people are losing their job, a lot of people commit suicide. Despite the brutal and abrupt situation, this pandemic also made modern heroes of our everyday life. However, unlike other heroes, they do not have fancy and colored costumes match with their hair and make-up. They are not like superman who had the muscles and his six-pack abs. They do not have super powers to protect the universe. They do not have the same technology that Batman used in his engine to conquer the traffic in the roads. They are not like wonder woman with a perfectly shaped body. These heroes wear their uncomfortable Personal Protective Equipment’s (PPE) for almost 24 hours to protect themselves against the enemy that no one can see. They stayed inside the hospitals, leaving their families because they take an oath to serve this country and its people. Most of them are found along the streets or high ways, inspecting every vehicle passing along our community and checking if everyone is inside their home.

However, not all modern heroes are public healthcare workers or peace officers – some of them are public servants inside the offices or working from home.
Government employees are also working under life-threatening situations where they are expected to bring services to the public despite the pandemic. They risk their life despite the impact of either being directly infected or having infected family members. According to the definition of our 1987 Constitution, public servants are employees of the state, a country, city, town, village or any other political subdivision or civil division or public benefit corporation. For example, the barangay officials from the barangay captain down to its volunteers, the municipal officials, employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), employees of the Department of Education (DepEd), and a lot more.

Public servants are foundations of reliable information and awareness needed in the community. An accurate and reliable information had been one of the most needed and lifesaving services during the pandemic. In today’s situation, every information is important to people. The data that they gathered leads them to make decisions on how they could survive their life. For instance, a 34-year old man who suspected himself to had COVID-19 committed suicide in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. According to the report, the man had been experiencing symptoms and had been fed with news that the virus will only weaken his body before he dies. With the fear of infecting his family members and seeing his body weak, he committed suicide. Later on, results showed that the man was positive with dengue.

Moreover, the lack of adequate plans and alertness about the virus helped it to enter communities. That is why, many government employees have been strategizing different health procedures and standards to save lives, safeguard social protection, flatten the curve and beat the pandemic and sustain the economy. Their task is to ensure the effectiveness of the health policies and protocols being applied to the public. They also help our government officials to enhance institutional mechanisms and preparedness for crisis response in the future.
In the midst of chaos, our civil servants, whether they are a young adult or in the midst of retiring, are risking their lives to protect the people of this country. We could show how we appreciate and respect their job by simply honoring and recognizing their simple efforts – and following the health protocols being implemented. Their research studies, advices and strategies are things that we needed in order for us to dealt in this pandemic.

In these trying times, where points between death and life are very close, it is important that we appreciate everyone’s effort to help our community in fight against this pandemic. Set aside the political biases and personal agenda of the politicians who according to the law should lead by example. Health care system and the survival of every Filipino people, whether frontliner or not, are much more important than anything this world offers. The future lies in every hand and as every government official, the national and the local government down to its public office’s janitor/janitress take the courage to do their job, we must also do our part. To the future graduates, future professionals – consider becoming a public servant in any offices. Your technology, skills, and abilities, advance knowledge is everything that this country needed in the future.

In the end, between points, we must heal as one.

References: