MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE WORKPLACE

by:
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Our father has taught us a lot of life principles, which I only appreciate in certain points of my life. One such principle is “Kapag hindi naintindihan, hindi talaga magkakaintindihan.” He told us this during meal time when I shared how my friends had a misunderstanding.

When I was younger, my appreciation to this maxim was as shallow as my friends’ misunderstanding each other over petty arguments. However, its full meaning dawned on me during my first weeks working at the Provincial Treasurer’s Office.

My first days at PTO consisted of orientations and explanations of my rights, duties, and responsibilities. We discussed who are my immediate superiors and who are my colleagues to whom I can ask questions and clarifications on how to do my job. They also gave me hints on how to handle challenges related to my work.

In hindsight, I computed the amount of money our government spent only to explain to me what I need to do. I counted not a small amount of money. At the same time, I immediately realized the benefits of knowing my tasks and understanding what were expected of me. Here are my realizations:

First, I gained clarity of what my superiors expect from me. This helped me focus on the essentials of my job. However, it did not hinder me from contributing something, in line with my job or not, during my free time.

Second, I came to understand how important my tasks are, making me more committed to my work, because what I do and fail to do will affect the whole process. I am a part of
the whole fluid motion of people and tasks. If I fail to give my contributions, then the work might stop for undefined length of time.

Third, I realized that what I do contributes beyond the PTO. Anything that I do builds or destroys the office where I am working and the persons to whom I am accountable. Moreover, finishing my tasks well also helps the people who go to our office for what they need and believe we can meet.

We all need to understand our respective roles and how they are interconnected and interdependent. This applies to any situation where a group of people are concerned, such as family, class, community, etc. When one fails to do understand their part, conflicts and problems will arise.

It was St Paul who admonished church people to do their tasks properly for the benefit of their organization. He said in Ephesians 4:16, “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” For us to finish what we need to do, we need to remember what my father told us when we were yet children: “Kapag hindi naintindihan, hindi talaga magkakaintindihan.”

References: