SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Everywhere, there is social injustice. In a country that institutionalized Social Justice in its Constitution, why there is a growing call for it?

It has been said in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIII, Section 1 that the Congress shall have highest priority to the enactment of measure that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good. In layman’s term, it is defined as “hustisya para sa karaniwang tao”.

Under Section 3, the State shall afford full protection to labor. It also states that it shall promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all. The State, instead of raising awareness and promoting regularization of employees, continues to employ under contract. Instead of providing equality of employment, allows officials to employ through “Palakasan” or “Padrino System.” Instead of empowering workers, weakens power of employees for collective bargaining agreement by passing Herrera Law. Why can’t the Government of the Philippines be one on change?

Under Agrarian and Natural Resources Reform, it calls for protection of farmers and fishermen. But, why does up until now, some of the farmers are not getting their land at Hacienda Luisita? Why does our legislative people pass Rice Tariffication Law? The law is intended to address the issue of rice shortage and inflation at the expense of the farmers, one of the poorest sectors in the Country. Instead of protecting the Filipino’s preferential rights to the country’s natural resources, allows Chinese sustained presence in it.
Next topic is Health. Health for all. Can you believe that statement? The Philippines has made significant investments in its health system for the recent years. Despite this substantial progress, however, achievements in health have not been uniform, and challenges remain. Inequities persist between regions and population groups making the health system fragmented and unable to provide services that is equitable, streamlined and cost effective.

For human rights, it calls for “Dignity for all”. It allows a person to live with dignity and in peace, away from abuses. But how to be in peace when there are rampant human rights violations? The issue on Human Rights creates noise when the country raises campaign and take actions to lessen drug syndicate. Extra Judicial killings become the headline of the news. Tortures became with spread, not only on convicted people in jail, but also in a military academy. Everywhere at any time, violation of human rights can happen to anyone.

These are just some of the social injustices in the country. A law is nothing if not implemented properly. For a country like Philippines, the government must be stringent to these. Corruption, illegal activities and violations to laws should not be overlooked. The government should not just be good at passing laws, but also be wise in maintaining the right of every sectors, hearing the claims of people and balancing the justice for all. The government may not have enough resources to address these social injustices, but may collaborate with international organizations like World Health Organization and International Labor Organization. The country must have a good taxation laws and regulation to support the need for resources. The private sectors may also adopt policies and procedures that promote social justice in organization. The country must support and educational system targeting everyone to know the comprehensive information on social justice and to raise awareness for inequality. Everyone must to change and take responsibility to improve the social justice and welfare in society.
Hopefully, in the future, there is a better Social Justice in a country like Philippines. A Social Justice that makes the country in one with ethical standards.

References:

1987 Philippine Constitution
Agrarian and Natural Resources Reform