

WHAT IS MY ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING AS A CHILD OF AN EXPAT PINOY (OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER)

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Mary Kay's father, Mr. Edgardo Andal currently works as a salesman in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and she looks forward to the day when her father can retire and be home for good. As a way of gratitude, she wants to give back by making him happy and proud of her.

The global change among nations play a major role in the progress and development of our economy. We now have improvements in the various fields of business that invite foreign investors to the Philippines. Various trade and industries that contribute to the growth of our economy. More employment opportunities had awakened the Filipino graduates to work including professionals and skilled workers. Producers and entrepreneurs were engaged to sell their products not only locally but also internationally. The modern technology enhanced the abilities of every individual by using modern gadgets, machines and devices. Students are of growing population in different schools and institutions, thus Filipino believes in the essence of having good education. The global communication that opens a wider interaction all over the world contributed to the vast transformation of ideas among nations.

On the other hand, the positive effects happening in the country outrun by the negative ones are presently happening. Mass poverty, rampant corruption, injustice, increasing crime rates, catastrophes, terrorism and destruction of natural resources due to excessive and improper technology. Indeed, these catastrophes embrace every Filipino to feel life's bitterness and burdens. But the real reason is the absence of fulfillment of the people responsible to do their duties. This is because of the negligence of some leaders to take their responsibility and their roles that they need to stand to in the nation building. Well, maybe they don't know what a role is, the reason why they refuse to take the responsibility.

A role is a specific function that a person must do in order to attain something for progress. It is a particular purpose intended for a person to be done. Everyone has the accountability to do it voluntarily. Moreover, if a role has been ignored, everyone will surely fall. Everything depends on each one of us and each of us holds everything. If one will not do their role or work, all will break into pieces. It is clearly manifested by the men who built a house, even the string of a guitar cannot produce music without the other, a flock of bees to form a honey. One thing that is common is that they cannot stand alone but as a group. A man could never build a house alone. A bee could never make a honey alone.

The reason why these instances work is that, each of them does their roles. That is a clear evidence that every role is vital in all aspect of life.

Everyone plays a role in the society. Even from the poorest to the richest man, we have a vital role in this world. I, as a child of an expat Pinoy has a role to play in our country. For me, it requires a bigger responsibility to take because I, live in the absence of someone very important to me (my father) and I learned to be independent. This time I will bear a responsibility for the nation. There is no exemption, for a child like me, considering that I am a citizen of this country and it is my duty to do my role as a “nation builder”.

Having an Expat Pinoy father makes me very proud although we miss his presence especially during special occasions. We see to it that every centavo sent to us, is wisely spent. The fruit of labor of our father is now that we harvest. Our parents especially my father were able to send us to private schools and we children were academically performing well. Now my family were able to save some money since, we children were granted academic/varsity scholarship. I was able to passed the expanded scholarship given by De la Salle – Lipa and at the same time passed the Batangas Provincial Scholarship Program (Wilma Santos Recto Scholarship). My brother got the full scholarship discount as varsity scholar as a nursing student of the same institution (De la Salle Lipa). From our achievements we receive praises from our schoolmates, relatives, community, friends and colleagues of my mother.

As an expat pinoy children, we were role model in our achievements – academically, being recipient of various awards, performing our roles in school, and volunteer church member. My family is also a role model because my parents were able to raise us children with both parents working. My mother works in Manila while my father is working abroad. We, the three (3) children were left home and living with our grandparents. At home, we have a division of labor in doing the household chores.

The Philippines at present is suffering from political and economic problems and natural calamities. From the Lozada issue of the broadband deal to the oil and rice price hike, the innocent death victims of the sunken ship M/V Princess. All of these happen in just a sudden glimpse and then gone. Well, I could not do anything on the tragic situation happening to our country. What I can do, is to **PRAY** and ask **GOD’S MERCY**.

On the other hand, we should concentrate on our abilities and the things that are possible for us to do for our nation. As a freshmen college student with minimal qualities, since I am still young, I can be best in school and continue to maintain my scholarship by studying hard and following the rules and regulations of the institution.

Being academically excellent is also the pride of the institution and being one of the quality graduates. Producing quality graduates will benefit the country not only locally but also globally. More work abroad will bring more dollars to our country and at the same will help balance our economy. **Being servant** of our parish church, I am voluntarily, rendering my precious time during practice and seminar formation.

If I will have a chance, on my youthful years, I could probably join the Red Cross, Gawad Kalinga and some non-government organizations. I will join youth programs, and encourage the youths to join various projects and programs. There will be no juvenile delinquency, unwanted pregnancies, crimes, drug addiction, prostitution and out of school youths. I will not go to night life places, because this will demoralize my personal being. Having a good friends and peers is also a factor of being a good person. As a student of a catholic institution, I will follow the teachings according to the catholic faith and values of my school.

On the other hand, having a skill and proving myself of having a talent in writing, which I had just won last November 2007 competing 26 schools in the area of Batangas, I could probably enhance my knowledge in the field of writing. I could probably write about our country and telling **all the good things we have**, inspite of the fact of the negative news that are happening in our country especially on the political aspects. I will write about our country's accomplishments. When the time comes, that I can participate and be given a chance by our government, I will support our lawmakers especially in the field of education, health, business, agriculture, peace and order, labor, transportation and tourism sector. By making policies in these various fields, will benefits my countrymen to alleviate poverty.

But the most important role as an expat pinoy child, is to be a better person as member of the family. To value what we have in the family, Living a good life according to the teaching of God will guide us always on our paths. Having a good family ties will make oneself a responsible individual. What I can value is the industriousness and the sacrifices that my father is spending in the other part of world, serving other nations just ot support our family here in the Philippines. But as the times come that my father is retired, I will give him the best I can do to make him happy for once and for all I had been a child of an expat pinoy. My dream is to finished my studies and be somebody so that my father would be proud of me. It takes only four (4) years to go but time is too fast, sooner of later that day will come. To finish my course with excellent performance through my merits that I am enjoying now as college academic and provincial scholar. With God's blessings and guidance, I will continue to pray for my success and for the progress of my country.

Let us keep in mind that whatever services we have, we can make the most of it. Filipinos are known all over the world to be industrious, hospitable and loving. We are also full of potentials, skills, and talents. Having the traits and character of a true Filipino, we can achieve and perform our role in nation building to have **HEALTHY & WEALTHY COUNTRY**.

My wish is cooperation and join forces ot the government and the private sectors to achieve our goals and perform our role as **CHILD OF AN EXPAT PINOY**.