



*"The pen is mightier than the sword."*

**Ben Emata Jr.**

[ben\\_emata@yahoo.com](mailto:ben_emata@yahoo.com)

---

## **THIS BREAKS OUR HEART**

**By: Ben Emata**

I cannot figure out how many people in the Philippines die in torment everyday right in the door or hallway of the hospital because they could not be admitted for lack of money. The doctors are just steps away but could not touch them because there is a barrier that separates them. How many doctors each day had to violate their vow to serve the sickly human beings because in their mind is a shadow of doubt in the matter of financial capability. Undoubtedly, hundreds die slowly with great pains in the body, in the heart and soul while waiting for mercy. And if these patients are admitted, how many of them could not be released for failure to pay the remaining unpaid accounts.

Many hospitals were sued for denying admission patients who were gunshot or stabbing victims who need badly immediate blood transfusion. Some of these patients died right before the eyes of hospital staff that could not do anything to help.

Of course, I could not blame the hospitals for protecting their interest and investments. No institutions can survive commercially under the circumstance. They also had to meet numerous obligations towards taxes, payroll of their workers and everything. Neither do I blame the doctors for any violations in their vow to serve because there is nothing that can be done on the premises. They are useless as professionals unless the patients are brought in hospitals for diagnosis and treatment. It is just painful to watch these people who needs so much help to get a new lease in life but still failed even in the threshold of emergency rooms that is arm length away from physicians. We miserably lack the ideas to develop programs to help the poor. There is none available like insurance that would answer such predicaments of patients. Like program for charitable objective that would help the poorest of the poor.

And why are our doctors and nurses leaving the country each day by he hundreds to various destinations around the globe? Have we addressed our concern to them or did the government ever have a time to think about this seemingly endless exodus of health workers? Have we ever wondered why quality doctors in the country mocked themselves into taking the much lower nursing course back in college and apply for work abroad? According to statistics, these health professionals had to leave because they are not treated fairly in the matter of salaries, wages and benefits. They were given little pay a month as against the huge, luxuriously big income of politicians, many of whom have not even gone to college. Everybody feels the difference of the unfair treatment accorded to these doctors and nurses who easily make \$120,000 or more per year in the USA.



*"The pen is mightier than the sword."*

**Ben Emata Jr.**

[ben\\_emata@yahoo.com](mailto:ben_emata@yahoo.com)

---

**With disgust, I blame the Philippine government for this failure; for its shortsightedness in knowing its priorities; for its lack of readiness to meet the problem on health of the citizenry; for its mismanagement to handle and/or provide the things needed by the poor taxpayers and for its lack of concerns to even know these problems.**

**It looks like there is shortage of budget or none at all, for social services like health and the like. But where is our money? The taxes generated from people from all walks of life. Where are the taxes from businesses, the money derived from human exportations, from our natural earnings? Where is the income from legal gambling, if those from illegal go direct to the pockets of government officials and politicians? Are we operating this nation blindly and without using even the slightest of common sense? Can we blame some rebellious citizens to rise in arms against this system because they saw for themselves the great shenanigans taking place left and right?**

**The government is so much pre-occupied with other non-sense activities like changing the Constitution, embarking on not so important issues in politics and battling relentlessly the equally non-sense barrage of stupid mass actions. We have a beautiful system that could make its people happy citizens but we lack good brains of leaders worthy to make it a wonderful place to live. We need sincerity and honesty in the government service and I also blame with anger the general electorates who vote for candidates for the money. What happened is we have so inept many public officials who barely understand what a government is all about. We also have leaders with beautiful academic backgrounds from prestigious schools but they wallow in the mud and caprices of the ignorant but famous and popular candidates to be dragged to getting elected too. We have leaders whose only aim in getting elected is to get enriched at the expense of the Filipinos.**

**The country can never get away from the clutches of ugly leaders because the people have bad culture n choosing them. For P50.00 these stupid voters opt to throw away their right to suffrage, their freedom to vote and their aspirations to be good citizens. Democracy is dead in so doing because the exercise is swayed by the little amount of money. The ballots are determined by money. Votes are treated like ordinary commodity for sale in the market place with regular tag on it. And why can't we stop this open practice of selling votes? Are we afraid to discipline even our own shadow?**

**In the United States of America, even Canada and other European countries, money is not an issue. People go to polling places to stress and assert their right. They vote because they feel it is their duty and obligation to put up better leaders. Nobody asks them to sell their votes or not to vote if money does not come. They just feel the right senses. The result is they get genuine leaders who listen to them of their problems and need. And above all the people produce a strong nation.**



*"The pen is mightier than the sword."*

**Ben Emata Jr.**

[ben\\_emata@yahoo.com](mailto:ben_emata@yahoo.com)

---

America believes in the preservation of life. Regardless of one's nationality, religion or whatever, he or she is given free medical assistance immediately when needed. Illegal immigrants do not only enjoy free health benefits but also education for their children. Money is not an issue in admitting a patient to the hospital. The issue is giving him or her immediate treatment and that's it. The people are grateful for its sincere services and everyone is loyal to its flag. Their men love to die in battlefield in service of the country.

In these places, nobody dies because one was refused or denied admission to the hospital or not attended by a doctor right away. Money is not part in admitting patients to the hospital. Preserving life is a priority. A patient is wheeled to the emergency room right away where he undergoes series of tests and diagnosed. If he is really to die, then he dies without rancor and regrets because he was given the best chance to fight for his survival. In other words he dies with smiles.

I had an experience myself not long ago. About 2:00 am dawn when I woke up to visit the comfort room, I felt the world was spinning. I was dizzy and vomiting. I knew right away there was something big taking place in me. I called my daughter, Emmy who was in another room with her sister, Stella, to dial 911, which she did. In just five minutes I heard already the deafening sounds of sirens of an ambulance that picked me up. I was rushed to the emergency room where doctors and nurses made themselves busy. It turned out there was internal bleeding on my ulcer. As we knew since time immemorial, ulcer is a tough killer. It kills people in a short time. Had the hospital refused to treat me or just delayed treatment for an hour or so, my family would have been orphaned more than 12 years now.

I also had an experience of being confined in a hospital in the Philippines sometimes in the mid 80's. During that time, I was asked for a deposit but it was not so big the amount. I think I deposited only something like P200 in cash because I was covered by Medicare benefits being a member of the Social Security System. I had to pay all amount due me when I checked out because it was the policy of the hospital, I was told.

Naturally I believe so much in the supreme power of God. But advance medical technology is a must in modern living. Scientific application on human bodies of modern techniques in health can save lives. Modern medicines can help people feel at ease the pain of failing health.