

Creating Paradise in the Philippines

Congratulations are in order for another strong display of unity within the Filipino community as seen in the workings of PIDC under the leadership of president Jun Enverga, ably supported of his equally active lady, Rosemer.

Filipinos represent an increasingly important ethnic community in Canada. And we have much to be proud and thankful for: a great community, great leaders, great donors and friends. The Philippine Independence Day Council invited the community to the Scarborough premier of the movie *Paraiso* (Three Stories of Hope). The film is a powerful and inspiring trilogy about heroism, hope, and faith. Heartwarming, it is known to transform the lives of those who see it. The project was conceived to help the poor in the Philippines. The premier was held last August 17th, 2007 at the spectacular Chinese Cultural Centre, on 5183 Sheppard Avenue East (Sheppard and Markham), Scarborough, Ontario.

The movie is the first of its kind, the making of which reflecting the *bayanihan* spirit that moves the characters in the movie. Popular actors like Cesar Montano, Maricel Soriano and Michael V. waived their fees and lent their talents as their contribution to the **Gawad Kalinga** movement (the inspiration behind the project), as did top entertainment executives and producers like Butch Jimenez, Robert Arevalo, Ricky Davao, Carmi Martin, Lilia Dizon and Bobby Barreiro, and all others behind the production.

Special thanks goes to Zeny Uy and Noel deJuan of the Filipino Chaplaincy; Bernie Consul, GK Coordinator for Bukas Loob sa Diyos, and his wife Belen Consul; Danio Penuliar, PIDC Treasurer, for helping at the premier with ticket control; Minda Neri for her excellent organizational skills; Suzy Llanera and Kathreen Pascual-Binaday for giving the 3-day event wide media exposure; Imee Belanger and Rebecca Cadawas for chauffeuring the artists around; Bernie Sychangco for providing the wonderful volunteers, our life line; Renee Talavera-Siao for hosting the Mabuhay Dinner; Ricky Cuenca, National Director of Couples for Christ in Canada, Country Coordinator of Couples for Christ USA and President and CEO of ANCOP International Canada, Inc., for bringing the film to Canada; and to my husband, Nanding Ticzon, for his much-needed support in the task of over-all coordination of this challenging but gratifying community endeavour.

Truly, with the generosity of individuals and the Filipino community at large, we can help rebuild a nation and answer the cry of the poor. And, in the case of the PIDC with its pledge to the ANCOP GK Village in the calamity-stricken section of the Bicol region, that will be at least 30 houses at a time. (**Filomena "Nene" M. Ticzon**, Overall Coordinator, PARAISO)