

# PROSPERITY, PROGRESS, PERFORMANCE

Project Report for Global Giving, Chapter VIII

by **RUBY RAYMUNDO**, Ang Misyon Talim Island Director

edited by Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz

## **PROSPERITY THROUGH PRESERVATION**

The Laguna Lake Basin is where lie the needs and means of living of the people, not only of Talim Island, but also of all the lake shore municipalities of Rizal and Laguna. It takes a lot of courage and perseverance to take charge of dismantling large fish pens, whose registered owners have been reported to be ghost or dummy proprietors of Korean and Chinese businessmen. Madame

Secretary Regina Lopez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ordered the demolition of these fish pens upon Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's directive to lessen these large structures, so as not to undermine the small fishermen.



**Duterte threatens to use military to dismantle Laguna de Bay fishpens**

Not soon enough, DENR Secretary Lopez also plans to convert Laguna Lake into an eco-tourism zone. As an initial effort, DENR is looking into manoeuvring domestic wastes from all households around Laguna Lake, including Talim Island, relocating their destination so as not to reach the water. By then, the poor fishermen will have the priority to their entitlements. Currently, President Duterte reiterated his call to dismantle 'illegal' fish pens that have flourished in Laguna de Bay, even threatening the use of military force to help protect the small fishermen.

## **PERFORMING AT ANG MISYON'S 2016 SATELLITE SHOWDOWN**

The much awaited annual Satellite Showdown was held at the UNILAB's Bayanihan Center in Pasig City last November 30, 2016. This was the third gathering of Ang Misyon's satellites coming from different parts of the Philippines, showcasing performances by the thirteen youth orchestral ensembles established since Ang Misyon's founding in 2012.





It was one of the most remarkable experiences of the Orchestra of the Talim Island Youth's members. On the chilly & breezy Wednesday morning, they came all the way from the island via a passenger boat to the mainland fishing port, where two rented jeepneys took them to the performance venue. They also experienced for the first time a fabulous buffet lunch at the Lee Hak Korean Restaurant. All expenses were paid by Ang Misyon.

This was the real challenge for the kids: from a long journey trying to compose themselves from grogginess to be able to perform well in the event. The three-minute performance was a great accomplishment for the Orchestra of the Talim Island Youth. It was a privilege to join all the other orchestras including Ang Misyon's flagship ensemble The



Orchestra of the Filipino Youth. It was amazing to see almost 600 young musicians, bonded together mainly by music, discipline, and the core values infused by Ang Misyon.

### **IAN NHOEL & VANA: THE OTIY'S ASSETS**



The source of strength of the Orchestra of the Talim Island Youth is the individual commitment, the responsibility of learning and mastering the music parts, and the contribution of each member being the look-out for each other so that no one gets lost during the rehearsals and performances.

Ian Nhoel is one of our best members. He is so committed to the orchestra. He practices the responsibility of being the concert master. He was 12 when he joined the orchestra. His mother was a public school teacher and his father was an Overseas Filipino Worker stranded in Saudi Arabia for three years, jobless, and uncompensated. The father just arrived last July with the aid of the Philippine government, and the dilemma that awaited him in

the island is that his only son hopes someday his passion for music will take him to college. Ian Nhoel also excels in academics and is consistently on the top of his class. He never fails to practice before entering the rehearsal hall and he continues to practice when he gets home.



We spoke about Vana in April 2015. Vana has been really admirable ever since and has become a role model to many in the orchestra. She dares to practice at night under the light of a candle. Her family has managed to survive without electricity in their home for several years now. Vana's deprivation has never been a hindrance to her dreams, but rather she has been transforming deprivations to become means to aim higher and tools to strive harder. She even borrowed a pair of shoes from her cousin just to be able to join in the Satellite Showdown but saying: "*Akong bahala sa inyo paglaki ko (I'll take care of you when I get older)!*"



After their Satellite Showdown performance, Ang Misyon's managing director Ms. Tinky Cruz, surprised each member with a Christmas gift: a new pair of shoes. And Vana was the most delighted to received her new pair of shoes.

#### **ANG MISYON'S ACADEMIC SCHOOL SUPPORT**

Ang Misyon, in cooperation with Phil-Asia Assistance Foundation, Inc. (PAAFI), has been providing academic support for selected Scholars of the OTIY. Last December 11, 2016, a Christmas party was given to the academic scholars of all thirteen Ang Misyon satellites. They were given grocery packs and cash assistance as well. They were very thankful for it was a great help.



**GRATITUDE IS IN ITSELF A GIFT** On behalf of Ang Misyon Talim Island and the Orchestra of the Talim Island Youth, we are profusely grateful to Global Giving and to the 30 donors who have contributed to our cause for the past two years. We wish you all a blessed & prosperous 2017!

