

JUL 18, 2020 ISSUE NO. 10

THE PAYATAS PAPER

A STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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PAYATAS MY LIFE AND HOME

BY ANGELICA, 19

My name is Angelica, I am a member of the Women's Team of the Payatas Football Club. Payatas is a town in the outskirts of Metro Manila. I heard stories that it looked very different back then. There were no roads and the streets were all filled with junk shops. This is because one of the biggest dumpsites in the region was situated here. Now, you can see some signs of development in our small town, facilities are being built, small businesses are starting to pop up.

Life here is still very simple, though. It feels more like the province. I was born here and

my family has been living here for quite some time. It's very easy to make friends in this place especially that the houses are so close.

I was 10 years old when I started playing football. Sometimes during tournaments, people tend to underestimate us when they learn we're from Payatas. They say our place smells, that it's dirty and chaotic. Of course, when we hear these things, we get hurt. They don't know how it is to live in our community and how hard-working our people are. That's why I will never be embarrassed to say that this is the place I live in.

They say, there's cash in the trash. That's true. That's the livelihood of the people here. They scavenge through trash and make useful things out of the things they find. That's one of the things we pride ourselves

with, we are creative and we do everything for our family.

I've met some of my closest friends here as well. We treat each other like family. They taught me how to be contented in life - to live simply and with a purpose. They have been my support system in school and in my football journey. You know, although we're poor financially, we're rich in terms of our connections. The kind of relationships we have in our community is inspiring. I can say that we have a genuine concern for one another.

If I can choose a place to live again, I would still choose Payatas, this is my home, this is where my life is. That's why I made a promise to myself that I will work hard in my studies and in playing football so that one day, I can show the world what talent and burning passion from a kid who grew up in Payatas looks like.

RISE UP PAYATAS

BY PIOLO, 20

I'm Piolo, I was born and raised here in Payatas. Payatas is an urban community where people live peacefully despite of poverty. Our area is known for having a dumpsite filled with garbage from neighboring towns. The main source of income of people here is the garbage industry of course. Many work as garbage collectors, dump truck drivers, and scavengers. Many of the scavenged items are recycled, repurposed, and some are even turned into art.

Although, it can't be helped that some people look down on our community. For some people, when they hear about Payatas, they're either disgusted or pretend we don't exist. Instead of arguing with them, I would just try to brush it off. I know in my heart that Payatas is a place where you'll find the most hard-working, most resourceful, and most selfless people. I believe our community has contributed a lot to our country and not many people see it.

Way back in the year 2000, the dumpsite collapsed and resulted in a trash slide. Many people lost their lives in that event. Big news stations, even international ones, were all over Payatas to cover the story. It feels surreal to hear about this

because not too many people pay attention to us nowadays. It's been two decades since the tragedy and it's been a long healing process for everyone. Now, they've closed the dumpsite and turned it into an eco-park and a waste-to-power plant.

I believe there is a lot that can be learned from the story of our

community. I hope that one day people see beyond the facade of Payatas as "the dumpsite" and realize that the true essence of this place lie in its people. The hard workers, the ones who clean up our cities, the ones who do the jobs most don't have the guts to do, the ones who will do everything for their families. That's what we should remember when we hear Payatas.

ARTISTS' CORNER



BY LOREN JOYCE, 17

PAGKAMULAT

BY ROSEANN, 17

Payatas, lugar kung saan ako ipinanganak
Pinalaki ng magulang nang may galak
Binigyan ng magandang buhay kahit naghihirap
Nagsumikap hanggang maitaguyod ang aking
hinaharap.

Sa paglipas ng panahon ako'y namulat
Paghihirap ng aking magulang
sa buhay na salat
Hindi madaling umangat kung hindi magsisikap
Patuloy na aabutin ang buhay na pinapangarap.

Ang aking puso at isip ay puno ng pag-asa
Lumaki man sa amoy ng basura

Laitin man ng iba ay hindi alintana
Ang lumaki sa Payatas ay hindi parusa.

Simpleng pamumuhay ay sapat na
Kasama ang pamilya walang hahanapin pa
Magtrabaho man kami sa maghapon
Kami'y kapit-bisig upang sabay-sabay na
makabangon.

Sa aking paglaki sa Payatas
Maraming bagay ang aking natutunan
Hindi madaling abutin lahat ng nanaisin
Dapat matiyaga ka hanggang sa ito'y hindi
mo na kailangang pangarapin.

WORD SEARCH

J W P I X R C R T V J I J L K Y
W G L W A O O O R X J B E A V T
O Q O K H T N D U U N I F U I I
D L R B U C S N C H Y C K N M C
K S P C X E T E K R J C L D Y B
O S M V O L R V D V X H Y R R T
Y R N E A L U T R S Z M L Y U B
Q D S Q B O C E I M U B W W E Q
A Z F W S C T K V V A P G A E E
S I D C P E I R E X Q Z F S S U
D B H X O G O A R W W L O H F B
L X J G B A N M Z T S I K E B L
J R F A P B C J H R J F P R R U
Q F D V T R R R R N Z A R T T T
T X P P E A E Z I Y B Z R Y E N
U S O L T G W R E E F M O X M R

MOST COMMON OCCUPATIONS IN PAYATAS:

1. CONSTRUCTION CREW
2. GARBAGE COLLECTOR
3. LAUNDRY WASHER
4. MARKET VENDOR
5. TRUCK DRIVER