

## **Problems Facing the Philippines**

### **1. Corruption in the government**

The people are charged with taxes but we end up having inefficient implementation of road and traffic rules, lack of a flood control system, and "road constructions" (They destroy some roads then immediately "fix" it, as a tactic for kickback). Even if, let's say, we have a good president, it would still be difficult for him to implement good governance practices nationwide because the rest of the politicians would not support something that has nothing in it for them. This problem is passed from generation to generation, more so considering the fact that the strongest politicians form dynasties. The problems in the government, collectively, is the primary reason for the rest of the problems.

### **2. Poverty**

Decades ago, the Philippines used to be the second richest country in Asia, next to Japan (That is why the Asian Development Bank was established in Metro Manila). However, because of the former president Ferdinand Marcos' corruption, we are now a poor country with a lot of economic hindrances to match the progress of the neighboring countries (e.g., Singapore). It is also sad to see that the rich and the poor exist side by side (For example, when I was studying at De La Salle University, I can see the neighboring slums from the 4th floor; when I worked at IBM in Eastwood, the poor residential areas are just a stone's throw away; Makati City also has this problem)

### **3. Inefficiencies in processes**

Particularly when government is involved. Because bribery is a common way of experiencing the shortcut and avoiding the hassle of falling in line the entire day.

### **4. Education system**

Classroom overcrowding is a chronic problem. On average, there are 40 students per classroom in elementary school and 51 in high school. The National Capital Region (NCR), which includes the capital Manila, has an average of 75 students per classroom.

### **5. Confusing cultural identity as a nation**

Nowadays, it is more difficult to define the stereotypical "Filipino", considering that our culture has been a combination of Asian and western cultures. As you go up the social ladder, more western values are prioritized even if they may conflict with the traditional "Asian" values. This can cause significant cultural conflicts between the rich and the poor.

### 6. Brain drain and lack of local opportunities to promising graduates

For decades, the Philippines has always had large populations of migrant workers abroad. From a purely economic perspective, working elsewhere will always be more financially rewarding. In fact, many doctors go back to school to study BS Nursing, hoping to work abroad in a lower level. In addition, with the advent of the call centers that can pay higher than some local managerial positions, many college graduates (even the board passers in nursing, accountancy, and engineering) choose to take a dead-end path. Other business processes are outsourced here, particularly software, but they may not be as promising as the ones in Silicon Valley (e.g., software enhancements/maintenance instead of building a new and exciting product from scratch).

### 7. Colonial mentality

Case in point: having white skin and pointed nose are considered beautiful, despite the fact that Filipinos are darker and have smaller/flatter noses.

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