**私が私であるために、私がフィリピン人であるために**

**“I Am A Filipino And This Is Who I Am”**

Dianne · Dawn · Fernandez

"Dianne, do you have the souvenir? Come on, do something!"

People around always ask me that every time I go back to the Philippines. They think I am earning a lot of money just because I work in a foreign country.

Do you know a lot of Filipinos who work overseas? Most of us go abroad to seek for high income jobs for our families. I want to give my family a better life as well, so I came to Dubai after graduating from college. And I thought that if I worked abroad I would be rich.

However, what about the reality?

You will be separated from your family and you have to endure the loneliness of working alone. You will have to live in a narrow bed space, and it is really tough to work hard for your needs and sending money at the same time for the family. Discrimination against Filipinos are almost rampant everywhere. Is it not because many Filipinos work anywhere in the world?

Nevertheless, I have been unemployed recently and I have not found a job for a month. I did not have much money left, and then I received a message from my father.

He said "Dianne, when will you remit us the money? Electricity and water bills are already due for payment, and I do not think I can buy more food to consume. We are running out of cash."

I was devastated when I heard it.

I have nothing! The Filipinos working here are not earning much compared to the others. So this is not really easy for me.

My heart broke into pieces.

But, I will never give up despite all of these. My dream is to give my family a better life to live, It is not who I am if I give up my dreams easily. And as one of the many Filipinos working abroad, I will never let my guard down in spite of the hardships and discrimination.

Luckily, I have found a new job after a month.

"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Perhaps my favorite words to live by.

I will continue my fight to achieve success in Dubai with courage and without fearing failure. Because I am a Filipino and this is who I am.

Thank you very much.