



**Global
Call to Action
Against Poverty**

People Rising to End Inequalities

**TUGTUGAN PARA SA KINABUKASAN:
*Online Busking Effort for Sustainable
Development Goals***



The Online Busking Effort in the Philippines

Last September 24, 2021, the PUP Students' Party for Equality and Advancement of Knowledge (SPEAK), Kabataan Kontra Kahirapan, Online Bayanihan Network, and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty- Philippines conducted the *Tugtugan Para sa Kinabukasan: An Online Busking Effort for SDGs*. This is an extension program of the recent Online Bayanihan Campaign, which aims to help in carrying the extreme impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that burden the members of the PUP Community even in the simplest way we can. The program included segments for the youth to advance the campaigns such as the debt relief, universal social protection, quality education, vaccine for all and other demands together with marginalized people – including multiple discriminated women, persons with disabilities, person discriminated by work and descent, indigenous people.

The chosen beneficiary for the event is the Hospicio de San Jose, the oldest charitable institution in the Philippines as they are in dire need of help and assistance in sustaining the residents and children who sought refuge in their institution, especially amidst the pandemic where the number



of COVID cases in the compound has now risen to 80, including children and the elderly. The collected donations will also be used by the institutions for the special projects of Hospicio de San Jose for the abused and exploited children, especially for those who are in dire need of psychotherapy to recover from their trauma.

Video Messages and Solidarity Speeches

In this connection, the Online Busking Effort Event presented the video of the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, during the SDG Moment 2021. He highlights the importance of coming together as only by recovering together can we get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track. For the organizers of the Online Busking, the speech of the UN Secretary General further strengthens the importance of SDGs especially amidst the global health crisis and to recognize that the response not only in the Philippines but of the world has been too slow and too unequal. This has revealed the structural inequalities of the society and it has caused major disruptions in education system, economy, and healthcare all over the world. With this call of coming together, the youth's role in initiating the consolidation of their co-youths to be on the vanguard and catalyst of change in the country was registered.

Ms. Beckie Malay, the national coordinator of GCAP Philippines opened the program with her solidarity and belief in the power of the youth in raising the level of discussion on the SDGs together with the new generation and hope of the country. She also shared her appreciation especially to the youth arm of GCAP Philippines, for being consistent and active in creating activities and significant engagements since the launch of the SDGs in 2015. She registered that these goals are already regressing in the country, which was exacerbated by the pandemic. That is why it is now more important that the youth would continue to be vigilant and mobilize more people and youth to join the causes that will have a greater impact not only for the country but for the recovery of the world in the global health crisis. She ended her speech with a strong call together with the youth to demand the global campaigns and a challenge for all of us to turn it around and act for the SDGs.

Hon. Leni Robredo graced the event through her speech in support of the organization's call to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in the country. As the Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines, she shared the current condition of the SDGs in the Philippines and how the pandemic has pushed back our targets. The pandemic continued to be the human's greatest challenge as it changed the way we live. She also affirmed and recognized that the healthcare



systems are being disrupted, the economies are shrinking and we are as edge closer in the worsening condition of poverty and hunger in the country.

VP Leni continued to share that, *“despite these disruptive changes, it becomes even more important to remind ourselves of why we do the things we do. However, your [the youth] creativity and energy motivate us to revisit the shared horizon ahead of us; and the concrete steps that we can make right now to achieve our aspirations. At bilib ako sa kung paano niyo tinatahi ang musika sa pagpapaaalala ng ating commitment to the SDGs”* as she believes that this event brings our objectives into a sharper focus in order to identify the gaps and collect all the lessons from achieving these targets ever since. While it is true that the challenge to achieve the SDGs is daunting, VP Leni believes that through harmonizing our efforts and collaborating community-based solutions, advocacies and campaigns, and through harnessing technology, will provide a more sustainable pathways towards the future. With VP Leni’s utmost confidence to the power of the youth, she is certain that we can achieve a better normal altogether.

Event Partnerships

This live event also registered the call for the government to take urgent actions for the SDGs in the country, as the youth recognizes that there should be a whole-of-government approach where the youth’s role and initiatives in the national development and in the pandemic recovery are being highlighted throughout this program. The power of the youth in coming together and claiming the future is very much present in the Online Busking Event, through the engagements and active participation of the students and in highlighting their solidarity to help their co-youths amidst the pandemic. This is also evident with the partnership of the Online Busking with the BTS Army PH – the biggest fan group of BTS in the Philippines, joined our call for the SDGs.

As BTS took the center stage at the UN General Assembly, where they were designated as the special presidential envoy for future generations and culture, more than a million fans watched the group’s speech who lauds young people for their resiliency in the face of the pandemic and climate change. With such influence of the K-Pop Group - who are now considered as the most loved by people around the world, it is no wonder that they have sparked an inspiration and consciousness to their fans across the globe, especially for their fans here in the Philippines. The BTS Army PH embraced the challenge posed by Kim Nam-joon and as a response, they have committed to be our partners and be involved to bear the torch of struggles of the Filipino people towards achieving a sustainable development in the country.



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Meanwhile, aside from the internal partnerships of the event with the different sections and organizations within the PUP System, the Online Busking Event also clinched a partnership with various schools and student councils across the country such as Imus National High School SSG, Cataingan Polytechnic Institute Inc., Bonbon National High School Mary Perpetua Escalderon Brioso National High School, Del Carmen National High School, Maravilla National High School, Immaculate Conception Academy, Gaddani National High School, Rondina-Atendido National High School, Lower Binogsacan National High School Taisan High School, and Gospel of Christ School of San Carlos.

This only further proves that the youth have the power to collectively assert their role in the national development and this partnership is only a start of the unity of the youths towards a sustainable development in the country.

Performers

Ultimately, the event was glittered by the remarkable performances from Gracenote, Banda ni Kleggy, Ysanygo, 9 Scoops of Vanilla, Pordalab, JEM, Mayari and Aldrich Agad. Their performances brought vibrance in the Online Busking Effort for SDGs together with the homegrown performers of PUP as Kent Monteza, Simon Cruz, Bryanne Betanio, Cherry Cantuba III, Kim Tumamak, Ariel Victoria, Rica Mae Cabebe, Yel Dela Cruz, Kristine Heruela and Louise Jake Tria took the lead on the show. Truly, original Filipino music is on the rise with their talents.