

[PRINT THIS ARTICLE](#) | [CLOSE THIS WINDOW](#)

'We envied the Filipinos'

LET me share excerpts of an essay written by Jaeyoun Kim entitled: "Love for Country" which was actually addressed to Filipinos.

* * *

"After the Korean War, South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world. Koreans had to start from scratch because the entire country was destroyed completely after the Korean War, and we had no natural resources.

* * *

"Koreans used to talk about the Philippines, for Filipinos were very rich in Asia. We envied the Filipinos. Koreans really wanted to be well-off like Filipinos. Many Koreans died of famine. My father's brother also died because of famine.

"The Korean government was awfully corrupt and is still very corrupt beyond your imagination, but Korea was able to develop dramatically because Koreans really did their best for the common good with their heart burning with patriotism.

* * *

"Forty years ago, President Park took over the government to reform Korea. He tried to borrow money from other countries, but it was not possible to get a loan and attract a foreign investment because the economic situation of South Korea was so bad. Korea had only three factories.

"So, President Park sent many mine workers and nurses to Germany so that they could send money to Korea to build a factory.

* * *

"In 1964, President Park visited Germany to borrow money. Hundreds of Koreans in Germany came to the airport to welcome him and cried there as they saw President Park. They asked him, Mr. President, when can we be well-off? That was the only question everyone asked to him.

* * *

"Pres. Park cried with them and promised that Korea would be well-off if everyone worked hard for Korea, and the President of Germany got the strong impression of them and lent money to Korea. So, President Park was able to build many factories in Korea.

"He always asked Koreans to love their country from their heart.

* * *

"Many Korean scientists and engineers in the USA came back to Korea to help the developing country because they wanted their country to be well-off. Though they received very small salaries, they did their best for Korea. They always hoped that their children would live in well-off country.

* * *

"My parents always brought me to the places where poor and physically handicapped people live. They wanted me to understand their life and help them.

" I also worked for the Catholic Church when I was in the army. The only thing I learned from the Catholic Church was that we have to love our neighborhood. And I have loved my neighborhood.

* * *

"Many Koreans have a great love for Korea so that we were able to share our wealth with our neighborhood. The owners of factories and companies distributed their profit to their employees fairly so that employees could buy what they needed and saved money for the future and their children."

* * *

I find Jaeyoun Kim's essay timely and relevant as our President, Vice President, and newlyelected political leaders assume their positions.

It is hoped that Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who has received a fresh mandate, will do a Pres. Park in the Philippines. But like the Koreans, Filipinos should show their love for country by not dividing and destabilizing it or doing such counter productive acts as like throwing metal spikes on the roads.

[PRINT THIS ARTICLE](#) | [CLOSE THIS WINDOW](#)