



“INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE,” A Davao Tribute”



UK na UK
by **Ella Hidalgo**

September 2, 2016 - At a night market in Davao City Philippines, where the 16th President of the Philippines hailed from, a bombing incident happened, causing at least 14 deaths and 70 injuries. One of those injured, a pregnant woman, died on the 13th day of September 2016, bringing the death toll to 15. The said incident happened weeks after it was announced that Davao City located in Southern Philippines is the safest place in the world. The Militant Islamic group, Abu Sayaff, reportedly claimed responsibility for the bombing but later denied responsibility, claiming that their allies, the Daulat Ul-

Islamiya, were responsible for the incident as a show of sympathy to the group. Displeased vendors were also considered as possible perpetrators. However, on October 2, 2016, three of the ten suspects were arrested, and it was linked with Maute Group which has ties with the Abu Sayaff.

Since, the relatives of Chit Sarmiento, President of Dabawenyo UK, witnessed the said incident, she thought of organizing a charity event that can raise funds for the bombing victims and their family. Chit Sarmiento had this doubt, due to the short span of time, that she will not be able to do it, as she wanted to bring the funds personally to Davao when she goes home for a holiday, October 16. September 11, at the Starvision's launching and first event, 80s Revival in Bar FM, Sarmiento shared her wish of organizing a fundraising show, and approached me and my friend Paye Yap, if we can help. Although she had the fear that it will not materialize, I confidently accepted the offer



to organize the show within 3 weeks.

I named the event “Instrument of Change,” because I believe that every one of us can be an instrument that can change the lives of the bombing victims and their family, through our little acts of kindness and generosity. October 9, Sunday at Vila Ronel Bar in Kilburn, supporters and guests from different organizations like the Dabawenyo UK, DDS, PMUK, London-based Filipino personalities, and businessmen came to support the said event. Regardless of status and political beliefs, all were united that night, with one goal - to raise funds and be an instrument of change. A request for a Prayer for President Duterte’s 100 days was also included in the programme.



Through the effort of Starvision UK and Chit Sarmiento, with the help of the Dabawenyo members, Terry Beauty Salon Staff, Paolo Tressman, all the sponsors, TBS, Wynchu Travel and Padala, Touch Spa, True Care Massage, Sta. Lucia, Genistar, Ogie Villedo and our media, George TV UK, GMA, One Philippines and to all who were there that night, including Mr. Gene Alcantara, who bid and won the “Under the Stormy Day” painting and Aurora Wilson who bought a small painting, an amount of £1,072,43.00 was raised. Of course, kudos to all the talented performers who shared their time and talent, Adelaide Cana with dad, Mike of D’ Intruders, Anna Belle with Bobby of Seenzone, Alpabet, Midz Dagamac, Trixie Quinto, Florie May, Jessie Crystal, Jun Degamon, Elson Sutanto, Side Projects and D’ Intruders.

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