

Compassion in action

Filipino volunteers in Bahrain come together to deliver hope to war-affected countrymen



Indian-Filipino couple King and Gab, right, organize lunch food packs for "no work, no pay" employees affected by the ongoing conflict

TDI | Manama

The Filipino spirit of bayanihan, the tradition of communal unity and cooperation in times of need, remains strong among Filipinos in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Members of the Filipino community have come together to support fellow Filipinos facing hardship, demonstrating solidarity and compassion by organizing various initiatives to assist workers affected by financial and employment challenges during periods of conflict and uncertainty.

Among the first to respond were the Indian-Filipino couple, King and Gab, who quickly organized the preparation of lunch food packs for "no work, no pay" employees affected by the ongoing conflict.

Meals

From the very first day of the crisis, they began cooking and

packing meals, ensuring that displaced and struggling workers had something to eat.

Beyond the daily food packs, they also spearheaded the distribution of grocery items to Filipinos staying in evacuation shelters and those unable to work.

Each food pack contains essential grocery items to help sustain recipients during these challenging times.

The assistance includes 10 kilograms of rice, one tray of eggs, canned goods, and other basic necessities.

Lunches

On 14 March, Lenila Estuche Ronco, 53 years old, a caregiver from Pototan, Iloilo, was among who volunteered to cook and prepare packed lunches.

Ms. Romco, who has been in Bahrain for 24 years, has witnessed both the crisis during the pandemic and the challenges brought about by the present conflict.



United with Christ (UWC) Bahrain members with Pastor Virgilio Fernandez



Pinay Ikaw Na (PIN) president Dinah E. Sta. Ana distributes rice and grocery items to needy Filipinos

Reflecting on her experience, she shared her appreciation for the support Filipinos helping one another in times of crisis.

"What I have observed also is that the Bahrain government is doing its best to provide assis-

tance to its citizens, and we are fortunate that they also show care for us expats," Ronco said.

Hearts

"The support genuinely originates from our hearts. I under-

stand the feelings associated with being in a difficult situation, and it brings both relief and comfort to have my husband, King, alongside me, recognizing the burden of these challenges and accompanying me on this journey," stated Ms. Gab, her voice embodying both appreciation and strength.

She guided the team, which, with the assistance of committed volunteers like Reggie Gaguete, Yasmin Galope, Rubie D. Belandres, Cecil Ancheta, and others, prepared and distributed food packages to assist Filipinos enduring hardship during this trying time.

Distribution

Pinay Ikaw Na (PIN) president, Dinah E. Sta. Ana, organized a distribution of rice and grocery items in Gudaibiya, Manama, and Juffair, which also encompassed Budaiya, aimed at PIN members and those who are unable to work and are confined to their homes.

“The support genuinely originates from our hearts. I understand the feelings associated with being in a difficult situation, and it brings both relief and comfort to have my husband, King, alongside me, recognizing the burden of these challenges and accompanying me on this journey.”

— MS. GAB

Similarly, members of United with Christ (UWC) Bahrain, led by Pastor Virgilio Fernandez, recently conducted a relief effort by distributing 100 packs of grocery items to members affected by financial difficulties.

Businesses

Restaurants and food businesses within the Filipino community played a key role in the ongoing humanitarian efforts to support Filipinos facing hardship.

Leading the initiative was Atarah Eatery and Pastries, which coordinated closely with volunteers to prepare and distribute meals to affected workers.

Eight-year prison term verdict for company owner

● BD6m fraud case

Rehab Mohammad
TDI | Manama

The Fifth High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld an eight-year prison sentence against a company owner (the first appellant), along with a fine of BD105,000.

The court also ordered him to repay BD6,831,707 and confiscated criminal proceeds amounting to BD6,831,205 from his assets and properties equivalent to the funds involved in the crime.

The case involves fraud, forgery, and embezzlement exceeding BD6 million.

The main defendant was convicted of money laundering proceeds obtained from fraud and embezzlement from the private sector, in addition to forging private documents and using them.

Community service

Meanwhile, the court sentenced the second to fourth appellants — the CEO and two

board members — to one year in prison, but ordered the sentence to be replaced with community service.

The court also rejected an appeal filed by the Public Prosecution seeking to oblige the appellants to jointly repay the value of the last two transactions.

The defendants were ordered to pay legal expenses and expert fees amounting to BD812,695, to be shared equally.

They were convicted of using funds belonging to investors in the final two transactions for purposes other than those announced by the company.

In its ruling, the court stated that the case against the first appellant included all the legal elements necessary for conviction.

The decision was based on witness testimonies, the defendant's statements during prosecution investigations, the report of the appointed financial auditor, findings from forensic forgery experts, a financial analysis report, and seized cheques.

Man loses BD12,756 in phone scam after sharing bank details

Rehab Mohammad
TDI | Manama

A man in his fifties lost BD12,756 after falling victim to a phone scam in which fraudsters posed as company employees following up on a complaint he had filed about vehicle organization at a fuel station. According to case details, the victim received a call from a person claiming to be a company employee handling his complaint.

The caller asked him to enter his personal information and bank card details through an electronic link, claiming it was required to receive a reward and complete the complaint process.

Information

After submitting the requested information, the victim later



discovered that BD12,756 had been withdrawn from his bank account.

Investigations revealed that the defendant, an Arab man residing in the country illegally, allegedly collaborated with another unidentified individual to access the victim's bank account using an electronic verification

code.

The suspects are accused of sending fraudulent messages, obtaining the victim's banking information and carrying out unauthorized financial transactions.

Financial investigations showed that BD8,000 of the stolen amount was spent using

credit cards, BD1,556 was transferred to a cryptocurrency platform, and BD1,354 was returned to the victim's account.

Questioning

During questioning, the defendant admitted activating the bank's mobile application on his phone and stated that BD10,000 had been deposited into his account on the same day, claiming he was unaware of the source of the funds.

However, bank records indicated that the defendant had opened the account himself and that the deposits were made in several installments on the same day.

The case is currently before the First High Criminal Court, which has scheduled March 29 to appoint a lawyer for the defendant.

Online orders resume despite delivery 'delay'

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Online shopping activity is gradually returning to normal in Bahrain, although

delivery times remain longer than usual as regional shipping routes continue to adjust.

The Daily Tribune has observed that several international e-commerce platforms have

resumed accepting new orders from customers in the Kingdom. However, estimated delivery periods have increased; expected arrival times now range between one and two weeks.

Shipments are being rerouted through alternative logistics corridors. Parcels first arrive in the UAE before being transported overland through Saudi Arabia to Bahrain.