

15 October 2015

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Chile

To whom it may concern,

It is unfortunate that we have reached a point where in we have to write this letter with utmost concern to the Government of Chile. The staff of the Embassy of Chile in Manila, Philippines has been experiencing inhumane and degrading encounters with the head of mission, H.E. Luis Fernando Lillo Benavides, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Since he arrived in the Philippines last July 2014, the Embassy's staff has felt the head of mission's dislike for the Philippines and Filipino people, the chancery's staff as well as the Philippine norms, laws and cultural indifferences with his own personal interests.

The Ambassador has constantly and openly mentions his comments and insults of the host country's regressing economic standing and believes that this is caused by the rash and imprudent attitude of the Filipino people. Unfortunately, the Head of Mission also believes that the Filipino people whether from the private sector or the government workers are too negligent for not giving him 5 star treatment and would insist in getting a result at the very moment he requires as he is representing the President of Chile.

Moreover, it is disappointing and embarrassing to hear the negative comments from the diplomatic community that he has single handedly erased the good standing and commendable ranking of the Embassy and the Republic of Chile to the Filipino people and the government of the Philippines. It can clearly be stated that a good example of his ill and untoward manners has put the relationship with our landlord to a very bad light. He has demanded the impractical and requested the unachievable with regards to the residence we are currently occupying. Unfortunately, our landlord is a member of the prestigious Filipino Chinese community who has very close ties with each other. We have tried our best to contain the situation within the Embassy, however it is no longer possible.

Ambassador Lillo has had a lot of resignations nor extension for work due to his abrasive and aggressive treatment to the staff; two of the workers from the accounting department of the Embassy have had a "psychological breakdown" after pushing his requirements on their performance. The Ambassador demanded for the accounting department staff to change the formats of the documents and the systematic flow of the day to day work.

The consular secretary has submitted a resignation letter as well due to his demands of work performances outside her working contract. To specifically quote the consular secretary's resignation letter: *"The decision to leave the Embassy has not come easy, however with the remuneration given to the staff does not compensate the descripción de funciones I have signed for and nevertheless the additional functions being assigned outside of the said contract. The working environment at this Embassy has taken a toll on me and my passion for working, it is no longer conducive to personal*

growth, mental stability nor to good health." The Ambassador has requested the consular secretary to change the resignation letter and omit some matters if and in case she pursues with the resignation.

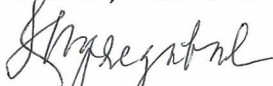
The Ambassador has outspokenly played favorites within the staff, causing the rivalry and unfavorable feelings towards others. A tangible example of this would be his favorable treatment to our last Embassy driver, wherein the driver would neglect the rules and regulations with regards to turning over documents and receipts to account for the money spent for the official car. The driver was also given a top of the line cellular phone that can access the internet even if the Embassy was not authorized for such transactions. Nevertheless the Ambassador did not want the driver to pay for any mistakes that he has committed as well as unsettled personal calls using the official phone of the driver. Lastly, to compare his treatment with another driver, Ambassador had a competent driver under probationary status, unfortunately, his father passed away and the driver requested to take a one day leave to attend to the burial needs and Ambassador had denied him of the request. Therefore the driver did not continue his working contract with the Embassy.

With regards to the host countries' laws, the Chancery's staff has been forced to work late nights. There are days when he feels that we do not deserve our entitled lunch hour and has the audacity to tell us when we are allowed to eat for 15 minutes and assume work responsibilities immediately after. It is clearly stated in the Labor Code of the Philippines, Presidential Decree no. 442, Book three Title I Chapter I Art. 85, "it shall be the duty of every employer to give his employees not less than sixty (60) minutes time-off.


Basing on the Universal declaration of Human Rights, in Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." It is with great grief that this is how much we feel we are violated.

The above mentioned examples are to say the least the most recurring on a normal and daily basis. The staff has worked for the head of mission for a little over a year but everyone has reached our threshold of anguish. We hope you can consider our grievances and have sympathy on our state of mind and feelings.

Sincerely yours,
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