



Talking about super typhoons or economic hardships, the Filipino people have endured them all time and time again. They may be swimming in floodwaters or watching their houses burnt to the ground but they do not forget to smile or wave their hands when a camera pans across them. In fact, next to hospitality and creativity, resilience is another common characteristic of the Filipino race.

According to the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the Philippines is beset by 20 typhoons a year on average. The most recent catastrophic calamity was Super Typhoon Haiyan, which claimed at least 7000 lives, injured 28, 689, ravaged 1,140,332 houses and damaged a combined total of \$US 572, 000, 000 worth of infrastructure and agricultural assets. Yet Filipinos are ready to rebuild their crumbled homes and shattered dreams as every typhoon disappears and a new day begins.

Just like the Chinese diaspora, Filipinos are found almost anywhere around the world. Currently, there are approximately 2.3 million

The Filipino Resilience

Marvin Matabalan Enderes



Filipino migrant workers who hugely contribute to the national wealth, thus called modern-day heroes. Rappler reported that they contributed a total of \$US 33.5 billion to the Philippine economy in 2019. However, this comes at a high price as they have to leave their families behind. Many of these overseas workers may only see their loved ones once every two to five years. Yet, for them, making sacrifices for the sake of the family is worth it despite the resultant feelings of homesickness.

Another interesting fact about Filipinos is their zealous fanaticism over beauty pageants. They try hard to storm into the lead in online polls when their representatives walk on the barbed



wire of world judgment. For many Filipinos, winning the Miss Universe sash and other international titles is the embodiment of their victory in pursuit of beauty and excellence despite the perennial problems that beleaguer the nation.

What better way to end a stressful or laborious day than a karaoke session, belting high notes without worrying about disturbing the peace of the neighborhood? Times may be tough, but there is always a 'happy hour' in every Filipino home. As a common belief goes, tomorrow is just a song away.

Filipinos have gone through hard times, but their indomitable spirit has sustained them in the face of adversity. One will see them giving profound smiles as they welcome hotel guests, tend to the elderly and the sick in hospitals or hospices, teach children of different races, build structures from the ground up under the blistering sun, or perform on stage to cheer the world up.



Pictures source:

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