



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
Region VI – Western Visayas  
**DIVISION OF AKLAN**



Arch. Gabriel M. Reyes Street, Kalibo, Aklan

01 August 2017

**To: Public Schools District Supervisors/  
Principals/Head Teacher In-Charge of the District  
School Heads of Public and Private Elementary, Secondary and  
Integrated Schools  
Others Concerned**

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Greetings!

Please find attached letter from Dr. Nelia T. Gonzales, Treasurer and General Campaign Chairperson, Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc., Quezon City, re: donation to the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP).

For your information and appropriate action.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**Dr. ERNESTO F. SERVILLON, Jr., MNSA, CESE**  
*Assistant Schools Division Superintendent*  
*Officer-in-Charge*  
*Office of the Schools Division Superintendent*

DIVISION LETTER  
No. 106, s. 2017  
RMF/mtr



# PHILIPPINE TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY, INC.

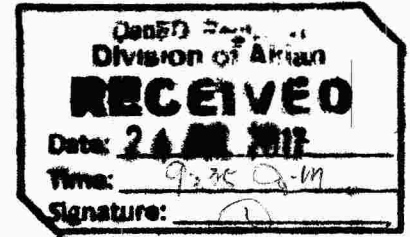
QUEZON INSTITUTE COMPOUND, E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVENUE (ESPAÑA EXT.), QUEZON CITY

P.O. Box 281, Manila  
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June 26, 2017

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Dear Dr. Gomez,  
  
Greetings!

NELIA T. GONZALEZ, Ph.D.  
Treasurer

For more than a century now, the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc. (PTSI)--a non-profit and private organization--has been at the forefront in the battle against tuberculosis. It was founded in 1910, when cases of TB were rampant in the Philippines. To this day, the Society complements the government's National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) in the detection, treatment, and control of tuberculosis in the country.

RONALD A. VERGEL DE DIOS  
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PTSI operates the Quezon Institute (QI) as its hospital arm, its Research and Training Divisions for technical support, and its Field Operating Division (FOD) in managing its provincial chest clinics. With its provincial network, PTSI actively implements the Community Outreach Program and Education (COPE) Initiative. Through COPE, tuberculosis victims in rural areas who have limited access to government facilities are identified and treated. Information and education on TB is also disseminated in hard-to-reach areas in the provinces.

REY GERARDO E. BACARRO

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Regrettably, the Philippines ranks 9<sup>th</sup> among the 22 high TB burden countries in the world with TB as the 8<sup>th</sup> most common killer disease among Filipinos. With the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of eliminating TB worldwide by 2030, there is an urgency for PTSI's plan to scale up its TB control efforts in the Philippines. We need help from all those who can partner with us in ensuring the success of our TB programs to achieve this.

DR. MA. ALICIA M. LIM

JAIME A. SANTOS

Being a charitable organization, we rely on our donors and our fundraisers who have allowed us to operate and pursue our mission for 106 years. It is for this reason that we approach you for your kind and generous support.

ATTY. TERESITA CRUZ-SISON

DR. LOURDES P. CARDEMA-SOLLER

Should you wish to get involved and help the PTSI, you may deposit your donation, in cash or check, payable to the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc.'s BPI Savings Account No. 3041-1307-91. You may also call our Fund Raising Department at telefax no. 781-3747 / 781-3761 (loc. 132) and look for Mr. Almario Alfonso, or email us at [rsalfonso.frd@philtbsociety.org](mailto:rsalfonso.frd@philtbsociety.org) to facilitate your donation.

DR. ELIZABETH V. CADENA  
Executive Director

We enjoin you to let others know that the fight against TB is not over, but our willingness to support this most worthy cause is a significant step towards a better and healthier future free of TB.

GILBERT N. SAN PEDRO  
Asst. Executive Director

Thank you and God bless!


Sincerely yours,  
  
DR. NELIA T. GONZALEZ  
Treasurer and General Campaign Chairperson



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## Paying it forward: One woman's fight against TB



*"Ate Lei", 46, was diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2013 while working as a barangay volunteer worker at Mandauluyong. Ate Lei shares her experience with TB and its complications, the help she received from PTSI and her courageous 3 year long fight back to health.*

Ate Lei has long been suffering from asthma so at a time when she thought she was having an asthma attack, she decided to have herself checked. Three months after that check up, she started to cough up blood. Ate Lei went to the nearest TB-DOTS where it was confirmed she had TB.

"I started taking the TB medication given to me but I kept vomiting. I couldn't hold it in, I would always puke after drinking the medicine", she recalls. She got a second opinion from another doctor who changed her prescription and also added anti-nausea drugs to her daily dose, hoping to minimize the side effects of the TB medication but it didn't." She went to visit a doctor in the Lung Center and had tests done. It was there she found out her liver was enlarged and she was allergic to the first line of anti-TB drugs.

Ate Lei was then referred to PTSI and it is where she finally finished her TB treatment. "The doctor in PTSI explained to me that although my TB isn't drug resistant, it will take a longer period of time to treat it due to my allergic reaction to the other medicines. My treatment lasted for almost 3 years. I was cleared of TB just last August 2016."

"My family was a big part of my treatment since they took care of me. KASAKA became family too. They are a big part of my TB experience because they treat you more than just a patient, they go out of their way to give you hope when you want to give up. PTSI also tries to make the daily trips easier. They help in other expenses."

Ate Lei is now TB-free and enjoying life with her family. She is currently a PTSI-KASAKA volunteer to the other TB patients. She shares her story especially to the patients who are experiencing bad side effects in the hopes that other patients will be comforted in the fact that they are not alone. The battle against TB is far from over but stories like Ate Lei's is proof that there is life after TB, maybe even better.

*Note: Quotations from the interview have been edited and translated for length and/or clarity.*