

## **“YOU ARE ONE”**

Noel Tolentino

First we give thanks to our Almighty God for using the current P.F.V.I. Management Committee who put together this gathering of Leaders tonight for -You and those leaders who had prior commitment and are unable to be with us at this moment.

In the early days of 1982 Groups of leaders from different Filipino - Australian Organisation in Victoria, known as “**Federation of Filipino Associations in Victoria**”, gathered together to discuss activities to which the whole Filipino-Australian community can participate at one place at the same time to promote and preserve Filipino Culture and Tradition in our adopted country **Australia**. This became one of our contributions to the Multicultural- Society of Australia.

The date was carefully selected, on 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of November and the Place is Caribbean Gardens in Scoresby - Victoria, was the first known **Philippine Fiesta celebration** in Australia.

The finance to start with, came from generous donations of individuals, to hire tables so that stall holder can have stalls for free and volunteers perform the work as it is still practise today.

The success of the occasion saw that the fiesta celebration as the vehicle to raise funds and purchase a property that we all can call **Home**.

To protect the volunteers that forms the working committee of the celebration, it became necessary to be Constituted and Registered as an incorporated non- profit organization. Now called **Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Inc.**

The journey raising such large amount of money for the Philippine Community Centre was slow, full of adversity and hurdles.

In the Philippines, Fiesta celebration would not be complete without the traditional Beauty Quest. **contest** In 1990 – Mutya ng Philippine Fiesta marked the focus of utilising the quest not only for the beauty and glamour but charity Skills to help speed up the fund raising activity for the Philippine Community Centre.

Now all of you who are here at this moment and those who are unable to join us tonight are the **Leaders** who had your share of sacrifice and contributed directly or indirectly for the realization of the centre.

This is the opportunity to express your appreciation to each other. “Thank You!!!!”

We all share the feelings sometimes that our contributions had never been recognised.

Just remember:

You are only ONE, but still you are ONE. You can't do everything, but still you can do something. And you have not or won't deny the P.F.V.I. that something you can contribute big or small.

Together, with God's Grace we have and still can achieve more than what we can imagine.

And your reward will be your **Personal Satisfaction** that you are there and you are part of the **HISTORY** of the Centre. In your memory, Yes!! You are one of the many who made it happened and in your heart you are able to **SMILE**.