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Statement on ABS-CBN Corporation Shutdown

May 5, 2020

We, the Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor, publicly condemn the Duterte administration's cease and desist order against ABS-CBN Corporation.

On May 5, 2020, ABS-CBN, the largest broadcasting company in the Philippines bid farewell to millions of Filipinos that relied on their network for accurate and timely information. The farewell came after a cease-and-desist issued by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) under the Duterte regime.

We condemn this public violation to our kababayan's right to public information and for the wrongful shutdown of a free and independent media. This is a personal vendetta by the Duterte regime against a network that has exposed his wrongdoings: the war on drugs and extrajudicial killings to name a few. Furthermore, it is especially heartless for the government to deprive 11,000 employees and their families of their jobs and livelihoods amidst a pandemic.

Enhanced community quarantine has already made life more difficult for our kababayans. For millions, this network is the only source of news and entertainment.

The following statements are what we stand for:

- We stand with the ABS-CBN Corporation and its employees, and we stand for the journalists fighting against this malicious attack on the fourth estate.
- We call on the Duterte administration to prioritize public health over the silencing of critical media when the Filipino people need it most.
- We call on lawmakers and the NTC to overturn the cease and desist order.
- We call on all Filipinos to stand against this cruel attack on freedom of press.

To our kababayans, here in the U.S.: this is an attack on our people's fundamental human rights. Resist, speak out, and fight against it. A free and independent press is a fundamental pillar of Philippine democracy. Without free press, there is no democracy. Only tyranny.

In solidarity,

The 53rd Kore of the Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor