

PH EMBASSY IN NAIROBI CONCLUDES 18-DAY CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) WITH OUTREACH PROGRAM



(Nairobi PE Personnel, Fr. Deem Virtudazo, and the children at the Welcome to the Family Institution posed for a photo wearing the anti-VAW printed masks after the donation of hygiene products)

Nakuru, Kenya – To conclude the observance of the annual 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) as well as to celebrate the season of giving, the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi, led by Chargé d'affaires, *ad interim* Maria Rosanna Josue and in coordination with Filipino parish priest Rev. Fr. Deem Virtudazo, held an outreach program at the Welcome to the Family Institution (WTFI) in Nakuru, Kenya on 20 December 2021.

The WTFI, which currently houses around 60 girls and boys ages 6 to 17 years old, is a non-profit organization that provides care, basic education, and safe haven to victims of physical and sexual abuse, and street children involved in drugs and alcohol abuse.

To contribute to helping and supporting these children, the Embassy donated hygiene products which include washable anti-VAW printed face masks, hand towels, bath soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, bathroom tissue, wet wipes, and hand sanitizers. The children were also given cookies and chocolate with toys as a simple way to put a smile on their faces.



(CDA, a.i. Josue showing the children the donated products after delivering her remarks)

CDA Josue, in her remarks, provided the children with a simple explanation about the anti-VAW advocacy campaign and the importance of fostering awareness on gender-based violence among the public.

“Please remember for when you grow up to be smart young ladies and gentlemen of Kenya's future that violence is not the answer. We must always love one another and spread the word of peace,” said CDA Josue who ended her message with an additional reminder for children to always wear their face masks properly, wash and sanitize hands, and practice social distancing to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Rev. Fr. Virtudazo and the teachers at WTFI thanked the Embassy for its generous donation that would certainly benefit the children’s well-being. The children also expressed their appreciation by performing a Christmas skit about the birth of Jesus.

As mandated by Proclamation 1172 s. 2006, the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence against Women shall be observed annually from 25 November to 12 December. In 2016, the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women (IACVAWC) adopted the theme “VAW-free community starts with Me” which shall be used every year from 2016 to 2021. The theme elevates the campaign to positive advocacy as it enjoins everyone to pursue the common vision of a community free from violence against women and girls, and highlights what can be done to achieve such.

END.