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CEBU BUSINESS WEEK

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SPECIAL EDITION

WHY TREAT DOCS LIKE OUTCASTS?

Cebu group helping combat COVID 19 asks why

A group of doctors expressed anger because they perceive government as seemingly treating them as outcasts while performing their duty to save lives in this fight against the coronavirus disease or COVID-19.

Dr. Rene Obra said the doctors like him strongly opposed the idea of cordoning the residential house of the late Dr. Helen Tutud in Talamban, Cebu City.

Dr. Tutud died a few days ago after reportedly contracted with COVID-19 although there was still no confirmation about it. Her house was immediately cordoned with yellow lines, and police personnel are assigned to guard the area.

Obra said Dr. Tutud was his classmate in a masteral course and she was his colleague at Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) before she retired.

He said that when he went to Talamban and passed by the Tutud

residence, he was appalled to see the area was enclosed with yellow ribbons like a crime scene.

“As a medical doctor like me, we are frontliners in the fight against COVID-19. It is not our choice that we will contract this disease. We are risking our lives, yet we are treated like outcasts. We are cordoned as if we are drug lords or a massacre happened inside,” Obra said.

“Who ordered the putting of yellow lines? The Talamban Barangay Government? The Philippine National Police? The Cebu City Government? Or the Department of Health? I doubt if they did the same to the residences of Senator Koko Pimentel, Senator Migs Zubiri and Actor Christopher de Leon among others,” Obra said.

Obra, the chief of the VSMMC psychiatric department, said performing their job as doctors this time is putting risks to their lives, yet the government treated them as

unfairly by barricading the residential houses of doctors who are suspected of being COVID-19 carriers.

The VSMMC psychiatrist, who has a regular program at DYHP radio every afternoon, said the authorities should treat healthcare workers with respect rather than the opposite.

He said he was informed that some people threw chlorine to nurses and other medical workers who are also prohibited from entering subdivisions where they are residing.

“It seems we are now the outcasts when we are serving the public. I am upset about it. We, doctors are angry about it,” Obra said.

