

Space Lama e.V.
Zweibrücker Straße 9
Homburg 66424
Deutschland



Report Lama Child: José

Age	16
Place of birth	West-Negros



José was born in Negros Occidental. His parents broke up and his father left for Manila. His mother lived with a step-father and José was treated badly. The stepfather did not want him and beat and abused José. Without any support or encouragement to study José dropped out of school and worked at any job just to give money to his step-father to stop the beatings. He continued to be abused and he ran away.

Sometime in October 2019 he decided to stow-away on a boat and find his real father in Manila to fulfil his dream to be reunited with his biological father. He asked help from a coastguard personnel and he helped José to board a ship going to Manila for free. When he arrived in Manila, he did not know where to start his search for his father and he stayed on the street and begged money for his food. He worked in Farmer's market in Cubao city, carrying vegetables, and offloading trucks. He had no hope for finding his biological father and decided to return to Negros to his mother and step father.

To earn money for his food and a boat ticket he became a parking boy at GMA TV station where he was able to earn enough money to return to Negros. However, while waiting to board, he fell asleep and when he woke up, all his money and belongings were gone. He was robbed.

José, now in despair walked all the way and reached Tondo, Manila where he was rescued by local officials. He stayed for a week in the Government public and since he could ride a motorcycle was given a job to cover his food to bring people from the government centre from place to place.

Unfortunately, on July 15, 2020, while driving the motorcycle and bring a person to Marakina North Manila. He was stopped by police and arrested for not having a driving licence. Also, he was charged with stealing the motorbike because he could not produce proof of registration. He was jailed in the Marikina youth detention center. A criminal case was filed against him. On July 27, 2020 the prosecutor dismissed the case against José due to lack of probable cause and improper jurisdiction of authority. The prosecutor ordered his release to his family but there being no family to take him he was forced to remain in jail even if the case was dismissed. He was beaten in the detention by other boys and on his birthday he had a horrible experience - November 4, 2020 which was traumatic and he tried to forget. The other



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youth prisoners covered him with a blanket and beat, punched and kicked him until he collapsed and was almost unconscious. No one would help him in the detention jail. He did not report to the Guards about the incident to avoid being beaten again. Also, for almost a year in the detention jail no one assisted him to locate his biological father so that he could go free nor they did not contact his mother. It seemed that he would rot in jail for years.

Preda social workers were contacting the detention jail looking to rescue boys with the support of **Space Lama**. They found José huddled in a corner of the prison cell hungry, malnourished and crying to himself. When they found him they offered to take care of him. They completed the legal documentation for his transfer to Preda which is an accredited care home and has authority to care for youth like José.

José was so happy upon learning that he will be transferred to PREDA, because he heard a lot of good stories from some of his co-residents in the jail. Very recently he was transferred to Preda. He ate loads of good food, played basketball, found friends and has now started his studies learning to read and write and vocational training. He is learning welding and electrical appliance repair. He loves to help on the farm.

