

Poem for Residents Against Racism – By Alex (27-11-09)

Title: Empathy

Empathy, the feelings we've come to know you share with us. We thought it was **sympathy**, well, may have started as that. The difference is, you identify with, and understand our situation. You also share our feelings, and not just a matter of an expression of pity or sorrow for our distress.

In the rain, in the dark, in all weather conditions you're there with us. You even suffer humiliation and mal-handling because of us. You are always there – day and night, protecting, and guiding us like the mother hen to its chicks...

When we hurt you hurt, when we're sad, you are sad...this is not sympathy...we have come to know what it is...you are us.

Beyond all this, you have become our **hope**, though frail but hard to kill. When we are down in spirit, you lift us up. Because of us you suffer, because of us you are threatened.

We have come from far and wide, fulfilling the purpose of God's creation to move and seek freely especially away from danger and distress and you have come to be our brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers. How can we say thank you? Again, we know our thanks and appreciation will be met with smiles, as though, don't they know we feel what they feel.

Rossana, you have been a mother to us, together with your members and well wishers in all our struggles, and we say, **THANK YOU**.