

# “Kapit sa Patalim”: Social Stratification and Social Realism in Gloc-9’s Select Lyrical Poems

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# “Kapit sa Patalim”: Social Stratification and Social Realism in Gloc-9’s Select Lyrical Poems

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### Abstract

The Philippines is a country that values music tremendously. Filipino composers create music that reflects the passions that drive political and social awareness in the Philippines. Serving as a voice for every citizen who is a victim of society and demonstrating the importance of music as a transforming force for national awareness, Filipino songwriters make songs reflecting the challenges of every Filipino. Music is a tool for political and social criticism. It is a means of addressing social injustice. In Aristotle Pollisco's (Gloc-9) five select lyrical poems, this study distinguished the expressions of the Filipinos' struggle with social class and difficulties of the working people. Gloc-9 uses music to depict the challenges of Filipinos, highlighting delinquency, criminality, societal, and political issues, and how parents must scrimp and save to send their children to school and provide them with a bright future. This research focused on Filipinos and their unwavering tenacity in the face of societal challenges. It would delve more into how Aristotle Pollisco, better known by his stage name as Gloc-9, uses music to express these issues. This research attempted to bring Gloc-9 to the Gen-Zs (12-24 years old) whose musical tastes have shifted towards Westernized themes, which are improper and irrelevant to their age.

Keywords: classical Marxist theory; lyrical poem; realism; social stratification; social theory

## 1. Introduction

The Philippines is a country that has the utmost love for music. Filipino composers write songs that are reflective of the passion that drives political and social consciousness in the society. The lyrics convey nationalistic sentiments and serve as a platform for presenting societal issues.

The lyricism signifies a transforming force for national consciousness. It is very much evident as Filipino composers create songs showcasing the struggles of every Filipino that serves as a voice to every citizen who is the victim of society. It is utilized as an instrument for political and social criticism and a vehicle to address social justice. It tackles issues of injustice and social causes. It can raise social consciousness and national causes for Filipinos. Filipinos use music as a medium to reach the masses and use its power to inspire and give awareness to people.

This research is based on the notion of “*kapit sa patalim*”; the social stratification that is visible among Filipinos. These common themes are present in Gloc-9’s songs highlighting the social reality without embellishments. Aristotle Condenuvo Pollisco - born October 18, 1977, who is known professionally as Gloc-9, is a Filipino rapper, singer, and songwriter. He was described as "a blacksmith of words and letters, and a true Filipino poet." Gloc-9’s His

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