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## GREATEST HOAXES IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY | HISTORY

1. Why did Jose Marco become the most successful Con Man in the study of Philippine History?

Jose Marco became the most successful con man in the study of Philippine history because for many years we believed that the documents he collected that were already included in the history books are true but it was criticized by historians and considered them as hoaxes. One example is the poem written by Dr. Jose Rizal entitled “Sa aking mga Kabata”. This famous poem is already part of our literature books since then but unfortunately some theories say it was not written by Rizal. For many years, this poem was believed to be Rizal’s but this was only one of the hoaxes made by Jose Marco. From this, we can say that it was “effective” hoaxes that made Jose Marco a successful con man that many Filipinos unknowingly believed to be true.

2. What are the hoaxes during Marcos administration? What kind of historical criticism did historians use to uncover those hoaxes?

The story about the Tribe of Tasaday is one of the hoaxes made during the Marcos administration. It was believed that these people are the only tribe that still live like the one in the Stone Age but theories say it was only a show for the public so that some people like Manuel Manda Elizarde can exploit money from the development funds for the tribe. Another hoax is the titles “war hero” and medals of Ferdinand Marcos during world war 2. It was proven by historians that Marcos being the “war hero” is false based on the statements from US Military and the newspaper The New York Times. It stated that there were no records of battle of the group called Maharlika during the war and no record of the award given to Marcos. Historians say it was only part of his propaganda. Those hoaxes were uncovered by historians by the use of internal criticism and source criticism. They use internal criticism by examining the truthfulness of the evidence and source criticism by seeking sources from the newspaper “the New York Times” and statements from the US Military.

3. What lesson did this documentary impart specially in relation with the spread of fake news?

This documentary tells us that we must be aware of the spread of fake news everywhere. We must be wise of who and what we must believe because those fake news may seem to be true especially in these times that social media is very active in providing information either the truth or not. Any individual can spread fake news because in social media, we can’t identify everyone as a credible source or not. Therefore we must always be keen and wise in everything we see on the internet.