I. INTRODUCTION

People Living with HIV do not transmit the virus by handshakes, casual talks, staying in the same room and/or even sharing of utensils while eating. People Living with HIV (PLHIV) are facing bigger issues other than the disease they have acquired but the discrimination and stigma they are encountering.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) fully supports the anti-stigma campaign and conducts programs and activities for its implementation around the organization’s programs and services.

The PRC upholds one of its missions as an advocate to halt the spread of HIV and AIDS. As part of moving forward, the PRC foresees that aside from HIV/AIDS dissemination campaign, the anti-discrimination and anti-stigma should also be given emphasis. This campaign will protect the rights and privileges of all PLHIVs.

The Movement already initiates several activities that promote the Zero Discrimination Campaign on HIV/AIDS. Also, the PRC adopts the “Workplace Policy” in accordance to National and International Law and Conferences that creates a chance for the PLHIV to work and live as usual in PRC environment.

II. ACTIVITY

During the World AIDS Day on December 1, 2016, the PRC launched a Social Experiment conducted in the PRC National Headquarters. The activity aimed to test the PRC employees on their raw views about HIV/AIDS, and educate the public regarding the routes of transmission of HIV, as well as eradicate the stigma and discrimination facing by the PLHIV individuals.

The Health Services Department of PRC invited two PLHIVs who agreed to be disclosed in social media. The two PLHIVs named as “Owie” and “Rene” undergone the usual process being a volunteer. After the orientation to the movement, they were assisted by the Volunteer Service Department in different PRC offices for immersion. “Owie” and “Rene” were introduce to five unsuspecting employees about their case. The staff and PLHIVs were involved in casual talks, hand shake, hugging and even sharing of food during break time. The five employees were put into test whether they will discriminate or will remain true humanitarian.

The PRC employees give positive points on the volunteers prior disclosing on how they immerse in different offices. A short clip was then shown to the employees showing that the volunteers they have encountered with are diagnosed as HIV positive. The reaction of employees gives the impression that PRC employees were aware and informed of the information and issues regarding HIV/AIDS.

Part of PRC’s advocacies, this campaign will be a great aid in spreading the information regarding HIV/AIDS as we support them and put our hands up for #HIVprevention.