

OPEN LETTER

Chef Norman Musa – Read this Story!

I had a few regrets in the past and one of them is how I handled the incident of 2 illegal workers caught working in my kitchen in 2014. Read the full story below and you will learn something valuable about trusting someone. I want to come clean on this as I tried to keep it quiet and I noticed that it is not doing me any good.

Too much trust was given to the people around me and I only signed the papers without checking the contents properly. This was the turning point when things were turned upside down and to the extent it turned to many rejections for new works as people value more of the negative news than all my achievements in the past. They chose not to associate with me because of this and some treated me as if I have murdered someone. With the article that came out, this is when the bully on the social media started and how the UK government agency used this opportunity to 'highlight' their superiority. I went to see them and begged them not to make a press release of me as I knew the consequences to my profile. There were more than 300 people including me were disqualified in 2017 and two articles were released with 2 names picked from the list. 'Ironically' my name is in that 2 lists. Coincident? Most unlikely. I was disqualified from becoming a director for a company for 5 years as a result. To be honest, I don't even know how to set up a company. All were done by someone else and I just signed the papers. My time was more in the kitchen or busy promoting Malaysian food out there.

As soon as the article released to the local newspapers in Manchester and one hospitality magazine, there was a troll who set up a fake account on facebook and twitter who did the 'wonderful' job to destroy me by forwarding the articles to my book publisher, book agent, to the cookery schools and also to the celebrity chefs that I worked with and with the clear message 'see what this chef has done and don't give him a job anymore'. After I did my research, it was one of the ex-staff who had the grudge on me. The same ex-staff 2 years before who wrote to the letting agent in London to not let out the apartment to me and reported about my Supper Club in London to the environmental health just to make sure I will not have the opportunity to run it anymore. It's the same ex staff who religiously updated my Wikipedia page so that the link to the article will be there. You can check the history on the Wikipedia page on how things have been changed. As much I admire the persistency of this person, I shall not reveal this person's identity. I only messaged this ex staff that one day I hope this person will find peace and if God thinks that whatever this ex staff did was wrong then it will be God to punish this ex staff not me but I would love to see that happen in front of me. No I didn't say the last bit.

In regard to Ning restaurant, as of this illegal workers incident, I was kicked out from the restaurant too as my name was no longer on the paperworks as the new company was set up. I was asked to leave the restaurant and only one staff supported me and resigned at the same time. I did warn that the restaurant will not sustain without me. I went crazy as I worked so hard to build the name and when you had something valuable been taken from you, how would you react? (cont'd next page)

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Few months after, I was approached to take Ning back and of course she was 'badly damaged' and the sales dropped. A group of staff decided to resign and the remaining changed their attitude towards me, there were no more respect I noticed. It took me few months to bring Ning back and at the same I was in the middle of agreeing the new lease. Unfortunately as soon as the article about the disqualification has been released, the landlady decided to take the opportunity to repossess the restaurant with an excuse of unpaid rent. The rent was up to date and that month which was due was only missed by 1 week but she purposely closed the account so I won't pay the rent. One of the terms for the new lease is to pay 6 month rent upfront and also the rent was increased too with so many ridiculous terms and conditions. After I have done my calculation, it's not worth for me to go back which was I think a very good move. The staff were upset with me and came back with all the threats because of some of their unpaid salaries which I promised to pay and I did towards the end. Some of them went behind my back to re-open the business with the new owner. I honestly have no grudge on them and wish them luck for it. It is good that they can still keep their job but for goodness sake, improve on the food presentation! For years I taught them how to make the food to taste good and looks pretty.

So, after more than a year, the article is still on the internet and as much as I want to move on, people who don't know what was actually happened, decided to stay away from me. Any negative news for them is a bad news considering tons of good news and great things I have achieved in the past. Not proud to say that I have lost book deals recently and thought all doors will close on me again and again. I still have a few people who still believe in me and keep on telling me not to give up. It has been a hard journey and I learnt a lot from this.

I have gone through worst getting upset with all these incidents but honestly I am glad that I let this out from my chest and for those who still have a grudge on me, go f**k yourself and do something positive and good for once! I will put a proper fight this time around if you dare enough to disturb me and if my late mum is still around, she will chase you with her cleaver knife. I have seen worst of what people did to destroy her business but she never gave up and kept on working hard!

To all the people and companies who decided not to do any works or associate with me and chose to put this negative news first before seeing how hard I would work and show my commitment to the works offered, as much of my regret then there is nothing else I could say to convince all of you without giving me a proper chance to prove it. I decided to come clean on this to show my honesty and regrets of what had happened.

Finally, I just want to say to many of you out there who worry too much about the people who wish to destroy and bully you, if you are passionate and love on doing something you know you are good at, then don't stop believing in it. Work hard to achieve many great things in life – ignore the negativities!

Thank you!

Chef Norman Musa

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