A TEST ON TEACHERS’ VERSATILITY

by:
MARICAR S. GERELLA
Teacher III, Abucay North Elementary School

For so many years, teachers and teaching have been christened of so many names – “Second Parents”, “Jack of All Trades” or “A Noble Profession”. However, such names have been seen in a different light by those who do not pay as much respect to teachers - who called educators in such funny monikers as “Taga-London”, “Tocino-Longanisa Sellers”, or “Suki ng loan sharks”. Sad fate for teachers. The very essence of being in the teaching profession can never be taken for granted – teachers are still responsible for the teaching and learning of the learners – a work that will always prove to be difficult for non-teachers to perform in the fullest sense of the word.

It has been part of the regular routine of teachers to do tasks which are not really part of what they had been taught in their baccalaureate days – to be a carpenter when teaching carpentry in EPP/TLE, to be a farmer or agriculturist for Gulayan sa Paaralan, to be a health worker during School feeding or deworming among other programs of the Department of Health (DOH), or to be a nurse as a Clinic teacher. These are among the many other roles that teachers juggle around besides teaching per se!

Upon the onset of the Pandemic school year, where the usual face-to-face learning will be next to impossible for the time being, teachers’ versatility to play many different roles will be again put to test.

With the implementation of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP), given the new learning delivery modalities to be implemented come October 5, 2020, teachers are now being prepared to become radio script writers and announcers for
the Radio-Based Learning. Others are being trained to become TV anchors for the TV-Based Instruction while still others are mastering the different Information and Communications Technology (ICT) platforms for the online learning. Not to mention the number of teachers who have undergone long and tedious webinars to become module writers.

You can just imagine how teachers have endured coping with the New Normal in their personal and family life and still honing their skills and abilities to perform other tasks, besides teaching itself – along with the many other tasks previously attended to before the emergence of COVID 19.

That’s just how versatile teachers are. They can easily adapt to changes. They are always persevering to follow new policies and to project different personas – all for the love of the profession. It is hoped that as the educational system moves forward to the new norm in education brought about by the crises we are experiencing and as defined and determined in the BE-LCP, the community and stakeholders will find more reason to pay greater and more sincere respect to teachers and to the kind of dedication they put into their work – exhibiting versatility the hard way at all times.

References:

DepEd Order No. 12, s. 2020
Adoption of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan for School Year 2020-2021 in the Light of COVID 19 Public Health Emergency