ANALYZING THE DEPED 10-POINT AGENDA

by:

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The Commission on Appointments (CA) unanimously approved the ad interim appointment of Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis-Briones. Issues of Sec. Briones being not physically fit – as she uses a wheelchair whenever she travels by plane – to hold the post set hurdles in her nomination. However, her excellent academic credentials, being a professor emeritus at the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance as one of the many, had rendered her great confidence and trust. Ensuring that the biggest bureaucratic department in the Philippine government selects workforce with outstanding qualifications is in compliance to Republic Act No. 10968 also known as the “PQF Act” which institutionalizes the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), Establishing the PQF-National Coordinating Council (NCC) and Appropriating Funds. One of its vital policies is to provide employees with a set of standards and qualifications which are imperative to produce highly-competitive individuals.

With the first mentioned deliverable of Department of Education (DepEd), it is quite notable that the average scores of National Achievement Test (NAT) from 2015-16 for both elementary and secondary levels are below the target. This is alarming for one of the methods to measure learners’ performance which is tantamount to the quality of education is by the NAT results; hence, it can be concluded that there are gaps in the basic educational system. Last year, the nation has been dismayed as the Philippines ranked lowest in the 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results. Reading comprehension and Mathematics were the areas which came out with low result. This premise has brought me the suggestion to include
“reinforcing of learners’ reading comprehension skills” and “employing comprehensive approaches to teaching Mathematics” through seminars and trainings.

On the other hand, the second deliverable must be given ample attention to lessen the number of out-of-school youth and children in the Philippines and in abroad. One way to attract learners to go back to school is to enrich curricular and extra-curricular activities that may ignite their occupational interest. As an observation, more students enroll in a school where interesting activities are held and are given significance. One of the root causes of the escalating number of dropouts are the ‘overwhelming’ paperworks and activities in school. Some learners reason out that they have to breathe from academic stress once in a while. It is also a good step to include the expansion of the Alternative Learning Systems in the 10-point DepEd Agenda.

The implementation of K12 has also been completed in the year 2017 when the first batch of senior high school students graduated. However, the run of this curriculum had been described as “still not living up to its promise” which pushed the House supported by ACT teachers to plan to review the effectiveness of the curriculum. JobStreet Philippines’ study reports showed that “35 percent of employers did not want to hire K to 12 graduates because they are underqualified or do not have sufficient work experience.” Needless to say, full implementation of the K12 curriculum must be on the top priorities of DepEd in order to provide learning that is relevant to the learner’s future job and is abreast with the ever-changing needs of the world. Afterall, the end goal of learning is to prepare individuals for the real world.

Reference:

Report to Congress. Department of Education.  
https://www.deped.gov.ph/secretaryscorner/reports2.html
An Act Institutionalizing the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), Establishing the PQF-National Coordinating Council (NCC) and Appropriating Funds Therefor. The Corpus Juris. 

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