DEFINITION OF READINESS

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Readiness is the state of being prepared for something according to google search. Merriam Webster defines readiness as the quality of being ready. Oxford dictionary defines readiness as the state of being fully prepared for something - all similar and the same. But how do we really define readiness in the very essence of the word? How do we define readiness in relation to being ready this school year 2020-2021?

There might not be enough time and space to actually explore and debate about how ready we are for the coming opening of classes. Really, just how ready are we?

With the global pandemic that hit the Philippines and almost all parts of the world, and while many aspects of human life and undertakings have been affected by the COVID 19 virus, the education sector has not been spared.

In the Philippine educational system, the effects of COVID 19 started to be felt when the school year was abruptly disrupted and eventually brought the school year closed in mid-March this year, thus preventing graduating learners to march for their most coveted diploma. Summer vacation started way too early for the schoolers but sad to say, vacation at home due to quarantines and lockdowns.

The school opening was earlier scheduled for August 24 until later put off for October 5 to give schools and school personnel ample time to prepare and get everything ready. Now that the re-scheduled school opening is getting nearer, how sure are we that we are ready?
Yes, self-learning modules (SLM’s) have been produced and reproduced; teachers have gone to various upskilling and upgrading of knowledge and skills; school have been prepared with all the necessary health and safety measures in place and the learners, home facilitators, school personnel, together with the local government units (LGU’s) and private stakeholders have been oriented as to how the new learning modality will be delivered and almost every part of the BE-LCP has been disseminated and accomplished.

It seems that everything and everyone has been made ready and prepared – but what is the very essence of readiness and preparedness, really? How do we know that we have prepared enough? How do we know that we are ready enough?

All these questions will be answered as we move forward implementing this School Year 2020-2021. Schools and all educational leaders and educators may have made all the necessary preparations to make everything ready. However, one thing still holds true – that is, we do not really know what lies ahead. The COVID 19 Pandemic is something that no one has ever experienced yet, at least for those who are living today. This is something which caught us all unaware and unprepared. We may have been doing all the disaster preparedness drill for earthquakes, fire or even floods. But we never had any preparedness undertaken when something like COVID 19 strikes.

It is with hope that we will be moving forward. It is with love that we will continue to serve though the future at this time of the Pandemic is very uncertain and unclear.

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BE-LCP
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