DEPED BAND-AID SOLUTION

by:
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It’s been a long year since the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic and the Philippine government imposed the world's longest lockdown.

A study by the ASEAN Studies Centre, a research institute focused on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) shows that out of all the Southeast Asians, Filipinos are most disapproving of their government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This all comes from the incompetence of our government and their lack of response to all aspects, including education.

Despite the innovations made by the education officials in terms of different alternative learning modes and technologies for providing a quality education, there are still gaps and challenges in their responses.

Several problems arise even in the early start of classes such as error in module printing, incomplete number of printed modules, the mode of delivery of modules, slow internet connection, lack of proper funding, the issue of the curriculum and education materials, and many more.

The truth is we don't secure enough fund in the education sector that's why we struggled when the pandemic came. The education sector might always receive a big share of funds in the government budget but the amount being allocated has not been enough to cover the needs of Filipino students. We also don't invest into further way of improving our education system. We are more likely depending on other countries' system which are not, most of the times, suitable in our learning environment.
We need a clear set of policies and guidelines based on an innovative educational framework and government policies and educational advancements should be based on a better understanding of distance education and responsive to the needs of the moment.

We don't need the government to be hopeful to further transform the Philippine education responsive to the changing world. We need actions and concrete plans so we can learn as one when we are all really prepared.

Furthermore, the national government should also ensure the provision of health protection and fair benefits to education workers - the educators, as they strive to fulfill their duties.

Don't let the bandage solutions extend the suffering of learners, teachers and parents. Provide an adequate learning materials and prepare a curriculum that is appropriate for blended distance learning.

References: