EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP AND THE GOVERNMENT

by:

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Leader is a person who inspires others to achieve a common goal, or who have a foremost and highest position within field he/she holds, and who has the superior degree in controlling the actions of the members of the organization they belong. There are two types of leaders; the good and the bad. The good one sets good example, transparent, committed, honest and compassionate. It is easy to know if a leader is bad if he/she possesses traits such as power tripping, irresponsible, never take accountability, insincere and corrupt. In the Philippines, some of the problems in terms of leadership and governance are corruption, nepotism, inefficiency and political dynasty. David also emphasized in one of his published articles that Filipinos judge the success of governance by the degree to which it is able to solve society’s persistent problems, and prepare the ground for continued progress. Professional competence, equal access to government services, efficiency, transparency, and accountability are among the key criteria for assessing an administration’s effectiveness. If the politician gained unexplained wealth during or after the term he/she is corrupt.

David’s (2015) article stresses not just the rant about bad leaders in the Philippines but it also tackles the accountability of the voters for the failure or success of the government. The truth is, Filipinos do not elect bad leaders. I think Filipinos are smart enough to rely on promises of a bad leader. We elect good leaders as what manifested during the election and eventually become bad and abusive leaders during the term because of exposure to different means like power, money and popularity. What is lacking among Filipinos is the assessment of leaders they will vote because of over-popularity of politicians. We elect leaders from dynasty of political clan because we
believe that leadership runs in the blood. We are convince that these leaders are relevant because of their status in society, ability and personality but turned out differently during the term. The conclusion always falls on the thought that we ended up electing bad leaders. So why do people elect/re-elect bad leaders? One explanation why people said to be electing bad leaders stated by Berries (2017) in his publication online is that people prefer leaders that share their ethnicity. The conventional explanation for preferring co-ethnics is that people expect co-ethnics (everyone) to do better under a co-ethnic leader. But often enough, the expectation seems more like wishful thinking than anything else. After all, the unsuitability of some leaders is pretty clear.

Esposo (2009) explained, in his article in Philstar Global entitled “Why Filipinos Fail to Elect Good Leaders”, that Filipinos are electing bad leaders because they see no hope in the alternative leadership being offered. Esposo also reiterates the two very big gaps that prevent the Filipino from understanding and doing something about the country’s sorry state in terms of electing leaders — the Education Gap and the Information Gap. According to him if we could just enlightened and empowered voters once we address the information and education gaps it will eventually solve these problems.

Comparatively, we should learn from the past. Just like the first sentence of this article states that every new government is a reminder of old mistakes. We elect bad leaders because we did not learn from the political events of the previous administrators. The mind-set of the people is that good leaders are those popular leaders. We elect bad leaders because there are bad voters. Recently, some of the newly elected officials in the Philippines are considered young and neophytes like Isko Moreno. The transparency, commitment, dedication and compassion are very evident in Moreno’s leadership. He was able to win the poll even he is not the most popular candidate but still able to beat-up political pillars like Ex-president Joseph Estrada and Ex-mayor Alfredo Lim because of the unity of people. We have the right to elect our leaders and take part on the issues that we think we are concerned with. Therefore, people can establish authority in the
community and construct changes in it. Our right to vote gives us that power and if we do not use this right correctly and responsively we will just end up begging or hoping for a better place to live in. Always remember that suffrage or the right to vote is not a privilege but a responsibility.

References:

