FIELDTRIPS: TO GO OR NOT TO GO?

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In every coin there are two sides just like in every issue there are deemed advantages and disadvantages. Hence, it is normal that there are people either who are in favor or not in those issues. Now let us talk about one of the latest, controversial and hottest issue in Philippine education or even in the world of Filipino professionals today, the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act, which took effect last March 2018. The CPD Act, authored by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, necessitate professionals to earn CPD units before they can renew their Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) licenses. The updated guidelines regarding the implementation of the law set by the PRC consists a resolution which put into details the required number of units for each profession. Every professional has a minimum number of units required, for example lawyers have only 36 units CPD requirements to be completed within three years, the CPA’s need to earn 120 units CPE as a requirement, etc.

Now let us analyze the first side of the coin, the perceived disadvantages, antagonisms and the not in favor side. There is a common conception that the operational guidelines of the CPD Act (Republic Act No.10912) “seemingly unfair” for professionals. These professionals will now be burdened by expensive and time-consuming seminars and trainings. Moreover, other professionals said that this was actually the revised version of CPE (Continuing Professional Education), they only changed the name into CPD (Continuing Professional Development), but the purpose is the same. They abolished CPE since it was proven that it was all business, it only benefited those seminar providers since it has a fee. Not only that, it was also a source of corruption, some are getting certificates without attending the seminars and did not
earned any knowledge which is contrary to the very purpose of the seminars. That's why they removed this requirement in renewing licenses. There was no research which proves that it must have to bring it back where in fact it did not gave any good results. it's a Filipino culture to bribe or buy their certification without attending so they cannot lose their PRC license? How about if the professional specially nurses who is working abroad and you had participated trainings/seminar? Does that count? Really there are still many gray areas or questions on this law. Where in the world can you find losing your certificate that you've earned without breaking any law practicing your profession.

One anonymous Filipino teacher wrote and posted online his reactions on the CPD Law emphasizing teachers don't believe in costly professional growth and development because the lifelong learning is earned through informal ways and experiences as well as the vast sources in this digital age which presumes self-directed learning to be found out as much more effectively than from boring seminars conducted in the traditional ways. Sometimes teachers get bored sitting through many unproductive or irrelevant lectures, just to renew license. Teachers gain more knowledge by long years of teaching or via length of service and practical application in school or at work.

Now let us analyze the second side of the coin, the perceived advantages, and the in favor side. With these growing antagonism and reactions on the CPD law, finally the breaks its silence and clarify the issue, stating that numerous news on CPD are not true or partially true and they called it as “fake news.” PRC said they have directed all CPD Councils of the 43 regulated professions to review and if necessary, make amendments to their respective CPD Operational Guidelines to meet the demands and anticipated problems of the professionals. Also, other CPD councils have gone through their corresponding operational guidelines to further make their CPD units more manageable and affordable to all renewing licensed professionals.
Now which side of the coin on CPD Act do you agree, the pro or the contra?

References:

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