HAILING THE K TO 12 REFORM, THE COUNTRY’S PILLAR OF SUCCESS

by:

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More foreign investments, good governance and well implemented policies and laws drive the Philippines toward success. However, it is still the implementation of quality education that leads the Filipinos to perform their best in those areas.

When the Department of Education (DepEd) started introducing the K to 12 program in 2011 and finalize its implementation in 2015, various local and national business organizations hailed the educational reform. The said organizations include the Makati Business Club, Philippine Business for Education, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Management Association of the Philippines, the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, as reported by Business Mirror in May 26, 2015. The foreign investors and Filipino businessmen noted that the reform in the educational system will ensure quality employment and more productive and well-equipped workforce. This will further lead to the higher quality of living in the country. Although many parents expressed disappointed over the new system due to additional expenses, there were still strong unwavering support to the program.

The challenge, however, is on the national government: on how it will sustain the implementation of the program, given the lack of educational facilities, not enough number of
teachers and small budget allotted for salaries of educators. It is important to note that there are
already 15 million out-of-school youth due to financial restrictions. If the government will be
able to support the financial needs of the out of school youth.

The Congress and the Senate are working to pass the bills on Unified Financial
Assistance System for Higher and Technical Education (UniFAST) and the Tertiary Education
Transition Fund (TETF). According to reports, the UniFAST and TETF bills will provide
welfare funds for millions of students. Global agencies and business organizations, including the
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, are hoping that the new bills
will answer the deficiencies in the educational reform. With the change in the government
administration and diversion of main objective of the Duterte administration, the citizens are
hoping that the Office of the President will still work in providing quality education and
establishing strong foundation of the K to 12. Experts and educators are reminding the
government that right appropriation is necessary for the implementation of K to 12, which is one
of the country’s pillar of success.