K-12 AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

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Last year, the first batch of grade 12 students graduated. They left their alma mater with skills this curriculum has prepared for them, with additional two years of core subjects of their discipline, and with the hope that indeed, this curriculum has prepared them of what to come.

K-12 is a curriculum that has been controversial for some years because of varying opinions coming from the public. Teachers, students, and parents alike supported and rejected it. But under the administration of Duterte, nothing can be done to remove it.

But after the first batch of grade 12 students, it does not hurt to take a time analysing what went good and what went wrong about this policy.

First, two more years with the specialized subjects are really essential. It gives the students the knowledge of the strand they have chosen. They will not enter college without prior knowledge to their subjects. K-12 has equipped them with cognitive tools they can use as they continue on their tertiary education.

Second, it is also notable that some have already experienced on-the-job training or work immersion. It is vital because some students would choose to find a work right after their secondary education, and I think it is an advantage if they have already experienced working. I just hope that they will really be given enough time and experience with their work immersion, so that they will have a full grasp of what it is to be part of the professional world and/or working class.

Third, like how some of the anti-k-12 groups have been demanding since time immemorial, this policy would not be successful unless the government supplies enough books, equipment, classroom, facilities, and teachers to the Filipino students. Department of Education
(DepEd) said last year that it is already addressing the shortage in classrooms, but they should show that the sector is truly solving the issue.

It is true that in its essence, K-12 is primarily for the best. It aims nothing but to produce students who academically equipped and ready with the call of the changing society and economy. It has been made to address the needs of our nation, and perhaps, of our world, but the call for quality education still remains.

Our government must see to it that K-12 will be as effective as they want it. And as the group of people who prioritizes the benefit of all, they should allot more budget for building more schools, giving teacher the enough salary they should have, provide books, and encourage other private sectors to be responsible to this goal as well.

As for us, teachers, we should always aim to be the best that we can be for our students. We should see to it that no one is left behind. We should see to it that we try to listen to every student and provide them with learning tools they need. And most importantly, we should see to it that once they left the school premises, they are ready.

References:

http://www.deped.gov.ph/k-to-12/