LOOKING BACK ON THE TRANSITION

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What a day to look back before the first batch of K to 12 Basic Education Program (BEP) students march on the stage on April 2018.

The shift from Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) to K to 12 BEP is probably the act that received the most number of reactions all over the country. It bothered different people in different aspects, most especially those who are belonged to the low income family.

Six years ago a batch of students were called grade 7 and became the first batch of the new DepEd program in high school. And before the school year ends, let us recall what happened. These students were named as grade 7 and finished grade 10 in the year 2016 before the end of the term of former President Aquino. They are now undergoing a senior high school program which is part of the new curriculum.

What is K to 12? K to 12 is actually a program that includes twelve years (12) of basic education and an additional one (1) year for pre-elementary schooling. This new system commands the parents to send their five-year old offspring to pre-schooling because it is compulsory and mandatory. The first six (6) years on the twelve (12) years is allotted for elementary education, while the four years (4) is intended for Junior High School and the last two (2) years is for Senior High School. The formal schooling is now quite longer than the usual because the main goal is to provide sufficient time for mastery of the concepts and skills to prepare graduates in tertiary level and to develop lifelong learners who are capable of earning a decent leaving through education, employment and business.
Students, who finished grade 10 and stopped studying, were called high school completers and will not be accommodated in college, which means that a student will be called high school graduate if he will finish grade twelve (12). This is now one of the problems that prompted during the implementation of the additional two years. Some high school completers did not continue studying grades 11 and 12. This is due to the fact that their parents are no longer interested to send them in senior high school and students were discouraged. Some students were also confused on the track and strand they will pursue. Some chose to work than to study.

However, after several issues and struggles on the implementation, students, parents and the community accepted the new curriculum and that is because of the thorough explanation of the school and the teachers. Today, parents were lightened on the advantages that the students can get when they finish senior high. Students were oriented on the different tracks and strands that the school offered. They were motivated to graduate in order to have a stable job, business, and pursue college study. Community was able to understand the benefits it will bring to the people and they showed support on the transition by participating on the programs and activities of the school.

With K to 12, education provides a system that enables graduate students to compete in the undergraduate study in the global community. It also creates job opportunities abroad for graduates with middle level skills and those degree holders.
References:
