PREPARING THE PHILIPPINES’ FUTURE GREAT LEADERS

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Pursuant to DepEd Order (DO) No. 47, s. 2014 entitled Constitution and By-Laws of the Supreme Pupil Government (SPG) and Supreme Student Government (SSG) in Elementary and Secondary Schools, the organization of a student government (SG) aims to establish a representative body that fosters leadership and promote learners’ welfare and excellence for all.

Leadership comes with a great responsibility on the part of the students. It needs proper time management, skills in leading the whole student as well as the school community, and they have to balance both academic and extracurricular activities to that neither of the two would be left behind.

Leaders are role models. They have to act properly so that they can inspire many students of their words and actions. It takes lots of time to develop the qualities of a good student leader. Anyone can be a leader but it takes lots of courage to handle the position and say that he is an effective leader.

It is an undying topic over the time of what makes a good leader?

Leaders are Born, Not Made.

In her article, Brigette Hyacinth stated that Great Man theory and Trait theories believe that people inherit certain qualities and traits that make them better suited to leadership.

To suggest that leaders do not enter the world with extraordinary endowment is to imply that people enter the world with equal abilities, with equal talents.” (Thomas Carlyle 1840).
There are certain inborn characteristics that predispose people to be and become leaders. There is a significant difference between “learning a skill” and mastering one, in the same way that others are born with amazing musical gifts or athletic talents. They will excel naturally in these areas but others would be like a fish out of water and may struggle to get to the same point.

**Born (natural) Leaders are different to made (artificial leaders).** All remarkable leaders have great history behind them. They were leaders from the onset of their journey.

Sharen emphasized that in order to step forward, an individual needs to have the desire and drive to lead. Research suggests that these factors are personality traits, long-lived and durable. In order to be accepted by followers, a prospective leader needs to be perceived as a leader by the followers. Traits such as intelligence, physical attractiveness and extraversion are traits that followers look for in a leader.

**Leaders are Made, Not Born**

Hyacinth also discussed that Behavioral Theories believe that people can become leaders through the process of teaching, learning and observation. Leadership is a set of skills that can be learned by training, perception, practice and experience over time. Leadership learning is lifetime activity. Good leaders seek out development opportunities that will help them learn new skills.

In his newest book, Leading the Life You Want, Friedman explores the skills you need to be a leader, how to develop them, and how to devote your life to your work without losing everything that's important to you. His research has led him to conclude that people are not born to be great leaders.

To be a leader in a structured environment, one needs some formal training. Most people can learn to manage well, start a business, lead a project team since good management is based on rules - rules that can be learned and mastered.
Leadership is often a Choice. A leader is a person who comes forward to take the challenge. If a leader rises up from the multitude, then that person was already a leader to begin with. Should someone have all the best training, nurturing and opportunities, but would rather be hidden in the crowd, an unwilling participant...not a leader.

Whatever it is, whether they leaders are born or made, the true measure of a great leader lies on how he inspires other to become a great member of the school and the community. Studies have shown that participating in an appropriate level of student involvement may benefit students academically and helps to develop leadership skills, which has positive implications for students' future professional careers (Lei & Yin, 2007).

Deped is true to its commitment in producing capable students that can be of big help in directing the country for the better future. Living with the legacy of one of the great leaders of our history, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, we should still linger it in our mind that YOUTH IS THE HOPE OUR MOTHERLAND.

References:

DO 11, s. 2016 - Additional Guidelines to DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2014. March 08, 2016

Brigette Hyacinth. Are Leaders Born or Made? A True Story. October 26, 2014
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