PROSPECTIONS
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Philippine history bear witness to the many changes in the focal concerns of Philippine education. From pre-Hispanic times focusing on survival skills to Spanish period disseminating instruction with a religious cause, Filipinos have been diligently in pursuit of education. During the American period, instruction was then brought into play in spreading diplomacy and democracy. It was through this period that the nation was handed an instrument to participate in global community as English was made the medium of instruction. Irrefutable indeed, United States of America, despite being a colonizer, positively influenced the country in many aspects. Policies, careful planning and teacher training institutions were put forward smoothening out public instruction as gradual release of independence was also set in motion. On the other hand, the teaching of Tagalog, Philippine History, and Character Education were given significance which embody our authenticity and identity during the Japanese occupation. The highlight of each era all contributed to redefining of Philippine education which contributed a great deal to our progress. Practical skills, varied, undivided faith, love of the country, international acuity and morals are still what propel national development, thus, the foci of Department of Education (DepEd).

As the world became fast-paced in the 21st century, DepEd took notice of the pitfalls in the educational system that hampered national progress. Starting in the year 2013, reforms were in place hitherto as the department commenced treading forward to content the promises of Kto12 curriculum. This intention is for the country to be at par with other countries’ basic education. Reports manifested that Kto12 curriculum is still remote from its goal. Notwithstanding, I still believe that Kto12 curriculum is our ticket to achieving our mandates stipulated in Batasan Pambansa. We are in probably slow yet continuous walk towards a complete, adequate and integrated system. This year and perhaps in the coming years, the country, the education specifically, will still in the process of troubleshooting the grey areas of the current
curriculum. Being a SHS teacher, I can see the great impact of SHS on the education of the students. With the firsthand experience, I can say students really are being prepared during their last two years of basic education for any of the four exits that they may venture in after. There have been predicaments in terms of facilities, classrooms, teachers and the like, but I have full trust in our education. One at a time, we will be able to address some of these, if not all as there are uncontrollable circumstances. After five years or less, I can see the Philippine educational system as a strong unit in the government as it persistently produces individuals who are ready for work, tertiary education, middle-level skills training and entrepreneurship if and only if, the administration will not jump into another major change yet again. One of the reasons for the Philippine education’s sluggish development is the refusal of the new administration to acknowledge the good works of the previous one resulting to loss of continuity of progress.

Moreover, the global pandemic is undeniably the huge factor in the changes taking place in the Philippine education such as the moving of opening of the class and alterations in approaches to teaching. More than ever, it is now going to be a necessity for us to utilize technology and other alternatives purposively in order to still bring education in every learner. In the long run, technology will be integrated in teaching and learning forcing the country, and the world as a whole, to fully embrace these advancements. It is just recently that an announcement of funds for tablets has been released. It is just one of the many steps in facing the dilemma by accepting the ways of ‘new normal’.

Educational leaders will integrate risk management in school-based management even more so as to counteract obstacles like this.

This pressing issue made Filipinos realized the importance of education as those unemployed, with low-paying jobs, in no-work-no -pay scheme have been affected the hardest. Education will be once more
treasured; learners will again flock the school. In 10 years, employees who are college graduates, entrepreneurs and middle-level skilled workers are going to increase our growth as a nation.

We had a handful of learnings from this new virus and these learnings will be used wisely by the Philippine education so that when the time comes that we are hit again, we will be prepared.