Don’t underestimate the power of unity!

Historically speaking, bayanihan is a core essence of the Filipino culture in order to make the job easier. One of the undying concept of this culture and best exhibited when people wish to move this “bahay-kubo” from one location to the new one. But the question here, is this Filipino trait of bayanihan (cooperation) still alive in local communities? Is this still alive in this modern age?

The Department of Education (DepEd) poses this challenge as preparations for the annual National Schools Maintenance Week that mobilizes thousands of parents, alumni, local businesses, non-government organizations, teachers, students, and individuals who offer their time and skills to do maintenance work and clean-up of public elementary and secondary schools.

Indeed, education serves as a passport for everyone to succeed in life and get something unique. The school is a nest which is responsible in breeding learners into a responsible individual in the society. This is where one is nurtured into a better person, who will be an emblem of the kind of learning centre where one was raised.

In view, it is also important to have an institution that plays a big part in pupils’ learning. A conducive, well-ventilated, clean and order classroom can result in a better and effective educative process. Thus, a school which is a place where an individual shaped to be a better person.
In accordance, there is no more than best favourable time to show our solidarity, concern and helping hand in hand and reawaken the “bayanihan spirit” that ensures that the school learning environment are ready and well set for the forthcoming school opening.

Brigada Eskwela ensures the preparedness of the school and the improvement of its facilities, as well as the readiness of the school children. Through this program, there is an assurance that the school is ready and equipped with the needs of the pupils.

As published at Smart.Com, Brigada Eskwela or the National Schools Maintenance Week as stated is a nationwide initiative by the Department of Education (DepEd) that mobilizes thousands of parents, alumni, civic groups, local businesses, non-government organizations, teachers, students, and individuals who volunteer their time and skills to do repairs, maintenance work, and clean-up of public elementary and secondary schools. This nationwide caravan is held simultaneously across the country’s 16 regions.

Bayanihan Spirit which refers to the spirit of communal unity, work and cooperation to achieve a particular goal was observed in both internal and external stakeholders who display a community of oneness to come up with the following projects and purposes:

- Cleaning of the school grounds
- Pruning / trimming of trees around the school
- Fixing of garbage disposal
- Repairing of classroom
- Repairing and fixing of bulletin boards
- Cleaning of classrooms and office
• Repainting of walls, ceiling, benches, plant boxes, grills

• Maintaining of orchidarium

• Repairing of leaking pipes, drainage system, comfort rooms, school canteen

• Replaced roofs, gutters, windows, lightings, signage

Though gone are the days that the image and concept of bayanihan spirit is a community wherein the town’s people were asked to lend a hand to a family who will move into a new place not just their personal belongings but most importantly it concerns the family’s entire house to a new location but in this modern age, bayanihan spirit can be witnessed in the school among the supportive and kind hearted internal and external stakeholders.

Furthermore, Brigada Eskwela has become the current vision of Bayanihan to the modern age. The tradition of volunteerism fastens and strengthens the Filipino value of Bayanihan.

References: