RELEVANCE OF HISTORY IN THE PERCENT: IN LIGHT OF 2022 ELECTION
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In recent weeks, as the fiasco of the upcoming 2022 election begin to unravel, heated debate and discussion were ignited due to the fact that one of aspirants for the seat of precedency is none other than the son of the 10th president of the Philippines and kleptocrat, Ferdinand Marcos.

The discussions are intensely exuberant because both anti and pro Marcos has a lot to say. Because despite the dark and cruel history of the Marcos regime which lasted for twenty years from 1965 up until he was depose in February of 1986 by the People Power Revolution, many still believes that he made the Philippines great. On the other hand, the people and families that were affected by the Martial law that Marcos implemented in on September of 1972, are adamant not to let any Marcos have the position of precedency due to the horrific crimes that Marco did during his time in office.

The opinion towards the Marcos family is highly polarized and it is really interesting as to how people argue and debate about their beliefs and opinions. However, the rise of this topic also highlighted an extremely concerning trend.

The debates with regarding the achievements and crimes of the Marcoses are found in every social media flat form that allows comments and discussion. Most of the time, the people who are engaged with these debates are young individuals from either Millennials or Generation Z. It is absolutely amazing that such young minds engage with deep and important topics such as picking a competent leader for the country, however, there are also arguments that show how these young people are lacking basic knowledge and understanding of the very history of the Philippines.
Arguments like “Sabi ni Lolo ko ganito” or “Sabi ni Nanay ko ganya” is so superficial and yet it really shows that they believe those statements. There is a reason why in court, eyewitness accounts are considered circumstantial unless supported by forensic evidences. This is due to the fact that testimonies or accounts of events are subjective to a person’s point of view, it can change depending on their biases or circumstances they were in.

Saying that the time of Martial Law is great because your grandparents are ok that time is like invalidating the suffering of those that were victims of killing and the economic recession that happened during that time. Not because something does not happen to you or your family, it does not mean that it doesn’t exist.

The problem is that in 2014, the subject of Philippine History was removed from the High School curriculum. The Subject History is still part of the elementary and tertiary education, but the elementary age is about 7-12 years old, which is too young to actually care and understand history and not everyone affords to enter Universities and Colleges. This opens a gap of knowledge. People that can’t have higher education do not have a chance to learn history while they are mature enough to actually make something out of it. So, instead of basing on facts they learn from schools that are derived from Historians and Specialist from the field, they just draw their opinions from hearsays and the internet.

The internet is a wonderful thing, it gives people access to information and knowledge that otherwise are not available for normal citizens. Nevertheless, it is very dangerous for people whom does not have the capacity to differentiate real information from fraudulent claims. Without baseline knowledge on the true historical facts, it will far too easy to fool online people into believing memes and propagandas. That is why it is important to return history education to the curriculum. It gives the young ones’ proper foundation on what are facts and what are fake not only regarding political information but with other
aspects of the History as well. In the light of that, how will we hope a great future without seizing the best from the moment and learning from the mistakes of the past?

If we elect in hopes of returning to the believed “Golden Age” without actually researching and studying the data and historical facts of that time, what will it bring for the country? And if the argument is that “he is not his father”, then who is he? What have he done that is worthy of the position he aims for? It also applies for every candidate for the election, know their history, learn their credentials, citizen their work. After all, they are public servants throwing their shot for a public position. The people has every right to be selective, to argue and debate, that is good because it means that the people are interested and they are involved.

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