RESPECT FOR THE PHILIPPINE FLAG

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Recently, in a news blog by Vitug 2019, construction workers were featured giving respect to the flag raising ceremony in a certain elementary school in Quezon city. In the article, the construction workers stopped their work to give way for the flag ceremony. They stood up and placed their right hand to their chest as a sign of subordination to the symbol of the country. This scene received such enormous amount of praises coming from netizens. Such act of patriotism deserves high levels of commendations.

In our locality, more specifically in our own respective schools, are our students portraying the same level of respect? More so are we, as members of the teaching force showing the same respect as these construction workers displayed? Sadly, not all are able to show importance towards the Monday routine. Most often than not that we see students still walking around while the national anthem is being sang. In some cases, as to schools situated right next to roads, pedestrians don’t mind the singing of the national anthem. Vehicles kept on running and people continue on with what they are doing.

Another case was the reported case where cinema goers were arrested and brought to a nearby police station because they did not give respect while the cinema is playing the national anthem as a means of properly opening their daily operations.

Can a simple act of ignoring the respect for the national anthem lead to a drastic problem such as mentioned earlier? Truth is, yes there is a big problem!
People are probably unaware of the law that governs the proper observance of the flag raising ceremony. This law is the Republic Act 8491 otherwise known as the Flag Heraldic Code of the Philippines. This is a detailed description of the rule of conduct during flag ceremonies of not just in schools but in all government and private institutions. Could there be an offense if ever people ignore such seemingly simple rite? Yes there is. According to RA 8491 Chapter 1 section 21 Filipino citizens are supposed to stand straight and remain silent as the least means of showing respect. Other provisions require standing straight, placing the right hand in the chest and singing the national anthem wholeheartedly. Violation of the law governing the flag raising ceremony are all stipulated in Chapter 1 section 34. Since the law requires citizens to pay tribute and respect to the flag, this means to say that disrespect to the flag equates to violation of the law. This in turn results to arrests and detentions.

Being an educator, what does this imply?

This implies that teachers should not just simply comply with the law but they also carry the responsibility of teaching, training and developing the youth in paying respect to the national symbol of the Republic of the Philippines.

References:

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Republic Act 8491 - Flag Heraldic Code of the Philippines