SHIFTING GEARS: LITERACY RATE IN THE PHILIPPINES

by:

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“It is through literacy that one is empowered to interact in his community and realizes his worth, what he can do and eventually make him do things that contribute in sustainable development of his society,” said Department of Education’s (DepEd) Literacy Coordinating Council OIC Dina Ocampo in a speech during the 2014 National Literacy Conference and Awards.

That “community” progressively expanded, based on the country’s literacy data collected through the national census. Results from the National Statistics Office’s 2010 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) show that 97.5% of the 71.5 million individuals who are 10 years old and older were literate or could read and write—an increase from the 2000 CPH record of 92.3%.

The leap in literary rate from 1930s up to now has something to do with the transitions that took place in education. Improvement in education system became the building block to achieve such major breakthrough as well as achieving its basic objective which is to prioritize skills for students.

DepEd’s never-ending actions to provide quality education for the schoolers of the country such as trainings and seminars for the teachers, support materials and guidelines directly boost the literacy rate in the Philippines.

“The Department of Education also seeks to develop more reading experts from the ranks of teachers through scholarships, long-term trainings, locally available or
abroad, to help strengthen the reading programs,” John Arnold S. Siena, a director for the National Educators Academy of the Philippines, said.

Such leap can’t only be attain by the DepEd alone but with cooperation of public and private schools around the country most especially the teachers. This overall enforcement result to an absolute outcome.

It is rampant today the existence of Book Drives initiated by private sectors such as the Philippine Toy Library, which collects books, board games, and even musical instruments; Sa AklatSisikat Foundation (With Books, One Will Be Famous); and Books for a Cause, a movement that distributes books to schools located in remote areas -- if only each citizen will continue such act, and the whole country will contribute in education’s growth, what room does ignorance have?