TEACHERS: DEPED’S NEW NORMAL SOLDIERS

by:
Analyn C. Custodio
Teacher III, Abucay North Elementary School, SDO Abucay Annex

With the sudden change of education mode caused by the health crisis – the COVID 19 pandemic – school personnel particularly teachers ultimately become the soldiers who are somehow forcefully sent in a battlefield, wherein the enemies are their own selves – their passion and desire to perform their jobs despite of all that’s happening now. To win the battle, they need to equip themselves with more than enough weapons more than enough so that they will still have extra armors once needed. Those weapons will be used in facing the challenges in the new normal system of education.

In less than a month, public schools will officially open and new-way classes will be started. Classes are quite different from what teachers used to do in the four corners of their classroom. The difference brings so many challenges to the whole academic sector, specifically schools heads and teachers challenges of ensuring quality education amidst the pandemic. Are the teachers ready to embrace those challenges?

As the entire Department of Education (DepEd) remains determined in its goals to ensure that education continues despite the health crisis, teachers are likewise have a lot of things that needed to be done in order to equalize the Department’s effort in attaining its goals. They will have to adjust well to the new challenges that come with the new mode of teaching. Adjustment is not that easy, there are other issues need to be addressed related to their work which cannot be dismissed. As of now, most teachers are working from home, they need gadgets and internet connectivity to stay connected with their school heads and learners as well. While many young teachers are ‘techy’ and knowledgeable in using computers and learning applications to be utilized, there are still some who cope harder with the use of modern technologies. That is another burden for
them…another great challenge that requires great effort to get along with the new normal. However, just like real soldiers, teachers are becoming braver, stronger, and more relentless with the wounds of those changes, so to speak. Giving up on problems is not the main character of a being a teacher, instead they will resort to something which will make them ‘in’ to the situation.

As already cited, it is deemed necessary to be ready for the war, thus, armoring themselves by attending series of webinars about the how’s of the new teaching-learning system, conducting online Learning Action Cell (LAC) sessions regarding various learning delivery modalities that shall be implemented as the school year begins, understanding different platforms: their uses, contents and pedagogies, preparing modules to be used for printed and digital modular learning modality, contacting and communicating with the parents in any possible way (through chat, text or call), and most of all, preparing themselves – mentally and physically - to whatever possible changes that might still come along during the implementation of the renewed system.

Despite all these adjustments and challenges, teachers should be recognized for never giving up and always striving hard to win the battle – the battle of ensuring that quality education for all learners continues. With this, teachers are indeed soldiers of DepEd… soldiers that are at the forefront in a battlefield of education.

References:

Learning Delivery Modalities Course for Teachers

DepEd Order No.35, s. 2016: The Learning Action Cell as a K to 12 Basic education Program School-Based Continuing Professional Development Strategy for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning