TEACHING NATIONALISM IN THE WAY IT SHOULD BE

by:

John Keneth L. Cabarle
Teacher II, Orani National High School

As teachers, one of our roles in nation building is to contribute in shaping a citizenry that can care, love and protect our country. We are part of our students’ lives as they prepare for an active engagement in the society.

In teaching nationalism, we instill the value of it. It must be delivered with an utmost sense of responsibility. It must also be savored with the passion to treasure and preserve it.

To deal with the urging call of nationalism, many believe that it is imperative to discuss and scrutinize national issues. We present facts, students do so. Students analyze and interpret. We, teachers, guide them.

Choosing the right thing is something personal to our students which is anchored to their moral foundations.

Our participation in their critical thinking development is not paramount and therefore limited. We cannot dictate. We cannot force them to believe. We inspire. We encourage. We respect.

Teaching nationalism involving two conflicting elements is challenging and sometimes may turn out to a failure. We need to consider the level of thinking of our students. We need to consider various factors surrounding them. As influencer, we create and build. During disagreements or even in heated arguments, the loving intention must be seen and felt. Listen and try to see the goodness in everyone’s opinion. Make our
students realize the situation to arrive for the truth. Do not do the thinking for them. These three words might help. Accept (not same as Agree), Assist, and Advise.

But the secret to succeed in teaching nationalism is to start with the basic. We can teach nationalism anytime. The fundamental concept of nationalism is crystal clear, SUPPORT. In caring, loving and protecting our nation, we need to support one another. Start with the simple things of taking care of our environment, being honest and buying our local products.

“Believe, Act and Heal as One” is not just a plain motto but a battle cry of all nations facing disunity and our students - the YOUTH, will have a crucial role in taking this nation to prosperity in unity.

References: