THE MISSING LINK

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This Pandemic School Year 2020-2021, every individual in the DepEd community has been busy and pre-occupied with a lot of things to prepare for prior to the opening of classes.

Learners and their parents or guardians or their learning facilitators at home have been given enough orientation from the start of the Remote Enrolment to the orientation on the Learning Delivery Modality (LDM) and each one’s role during the modular print instruction with the hope that online learning can also be made possible to augment learning from the modules.

Local government units have also been informed of the School Basic Education – Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) so that all partners will have an idea of each other’s roles in order to complement and supplement one another in the process.

Teachers have been undergoing many different trainings, webinars, and workshops to prepare them for the new learning modality, the requirements of the BE-LCP, the different learning modules among many other things they need to learn about. Webinars are from the national, regional, division or district levels about all sorts – teaching and learning strategies, mastery content of the different learning areas, pedagogical philosophies and approaches including ICT and the use of different online and offline learning platforms.

Schools have been made conformant to health and safety protocols of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).
It seems that everything has been prepared – the physical and the professional aspects. But how about the mental and psychosocial preparedness for the learners and the Deped Personnel? Are they mentally, psychologically, emotionally, and socially prepared for this Pandemic School Year?

The mind may be overflowing with information and knowledge but is everyone ready? Have we already accepted the New Normal in life as it is happening these days? Some may have information overload; others may have too much workload; work from home is actually more demanding that reporting to work physically – and with all these – how much of it can we handle and how more of it can we still manage?

With all the preparations we are doing, we should find the missing link – that is, still there aspects that need to be prepared – to prepare the heart to keep the love and passion for work burning, to get the mind ready to be loaded with more and not to forget to devote enough time bond with family and friends and find something they really enjoy doing and do it for themselves. After all, they all deserve some break!

Surely there is a need for psychosocial readiness for all personnel – to prevent depression and to ease out the stress and strain of this Pandemic School Year. Education implementers, too, are humans – they get tired; they get hopeless, they get scared; they get confused; they get demoralized. At this time, they also need some moral boosters and emotional fillers to keep going.

And the issuance of Deped Memo No. 58, s. 2020 is really a necessity for the missing link.

References:
DepEd Memo No. 58, s. 2020
Orientation for the Regional and Schools Division Offices on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services in Time of COVID 19 for Learners and DepEd Personnel