WHAT’S NEW THIS NEW NORMAL?

by:
Rica E. Obispo
Teacher III Sto.Nino Elementary School

The global pandemic indeed affected the way people live, work, socialize, and mobilize. Many suffered in extreme trauma because of the threat to health brought by this virus. Mortality rates also increase each day and the risk of infection is undeniably spreading. This time the world face a new normal as countries still battling this unseen enemy and while the vaccine is not yet developed.

It can be recalled that two weeks before the official ending of the school year the government imposed quarantine procedures to stop the spread of the virus and protect the health of the students. President Rodrigo Duterte immediately addressed the threats of COVID-19 by asking the help of Department of Health (DOH) and the creation of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines. Due to the recommendation made by these agencies, schools were force to close and stop operations even the school year is not formally ended.

The Department of Education (DepEd) being the responsible agency for making educational policies and programs for basic education, presented a contingency plan on how the education will continue this time of pandemic. Education Secretary, Leonor Briones, presented before the IATF its Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) for SY 2020-2021. Part of the continuity plan is to embrace alternative learning delivery modalities such as but not limited to distance learnings, blended learnings, face-to-face, and homeschooling and other modes of delivery shall be allowed subject to the COVID risk severity classification and compliance of the locale to the minimum health standards required by the IATF. The postponement of different academic and non-academic activities that involve mass gathering was also stressed out in the plan.
References:

https://www.doh.gov.ph/COVID-19/IATF-Resolutions