

CHANGING PHILIPPINE HISTORY IN ONE DAY

by:

Maureen T. Adan

Teacher I, St. Francis National High School

Few months from now, our country would elect the next national and local officials to lead our nation in the time of pandemic. Every candidate in different seat may it be local or national is campaigning in different ways that voters would be convinced to vote for them. For example, in the television advertisement of one senator, he is encouraging the parents to send their children to school despite no face-to-face classes while others like in You Tube documentation, a famous local chief executive paired with a famous doctor expressed his desire to vie for the position of the President. More and more advertisements in the coming days are expected to come out as election time gets nearer.

The youth who comprised of big number of voters most especially in senior high school up to collegiate level both in public and private institutions are the ones who could be mobilized to convince others to vote for some candidates who would be running for different positions. Following the principle of voting what our country needs, not what we want is one principle a Filipino voter should have in mind so that he or she could choose the right person to lead.

Sadly, we are still halfway to maturity stage where what one wants still prevails most of the time not what our country needs through the dirty trick's politicians do like buying votes and other forms of cheating. The integrity of some voters is somehow tarnished when they sell their votes to leaders. The sanctity of a ballot is no longer respected when names of the candidates to be voted are dictated by the so-called leaders who provide money for the voters before they cast their votes.

The churches mostly in Catholic congregation still do their part to evangelize people on the sanctity of voting without receiving any money in return but still it really takes time for people to realize the deeper meaning of the term clean and honest votes- the kind of legacy that elders should leave to their children who would someday just like them would also be voters. Now the question is whose job is it to mold the conscience of the voters mostly the youth population in our country?

Aside from the parents and guardians of young voters, the teachers have the power and capacity to mold their conscience to do the right thing- to vote and not to be enticed with money or any favor that would mean selling their votes. Regardless of the usual practices that youth have seen from some older people in the past where vote buying had become rampant, they could still do many changes in casting their votes.

Re-educating the youth on the kind of future they would have if they chose the corrupt candidates soon to be corrupt officials could direct them to choose the upright and good candidates soon to be good officials and servants of our country would mean serving with love not only the people, they would be serving but also our country.

The teachers with many teachings they pass to their students, the moldings they make in different ways for many years before the youth cast their votes have great impact on the kind of country we would have in the future after election day had taken place. In just one day by merely casting the youth's vote would mean changing Philippine history in one day. Should the youth sector choose to change the history of our country in one day, it is hoped that they have chosen the right candidates to lead our country with pride and integrity.

Voting the right candidates on election time would mean better future for the next generation and making the history of our country better and more beautiful than ever although we are still in pandemic.

References:

Alzel Lagurdia (2021), PH Lessons from Pandemic further highlights the importance of voting in 2022 elections