

LIFELONG LEARNING, BATAEÑOS BUTTER AND PRIDE

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"LIFELONG LEARNING, a key to a sustainable and developed society."

-Hon. Jose Enrique S. Garcia III

Balanga City is proud to be regarded as one of the twelve Learning Cities in the country. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the organizer of the 1st International Conference of Learning Cities in 2013, introduced that Lifelong Learning is essential because economic and political settings are constantly changing. Thus, people also need to be equipped with capabilities that can't be learned in a regular school. Hence, not only literacy skills will be taught, but also vocational and professional skills that will equip the individual to be productive citizens.

House Bill No. 208, otherwise known as "The Learning Act of 2019", was introduced by Honorable Jose Enrique S. Garcia in the 18th Congress. The Act was deemed to establish learning cities, mandating compliance with the key features, and deliver appropriate funds for the program. Garcia, the 2nd District Representative, reiterated that education should be the topmost priority since it resolves problems, remedies sickness, and lessens accidents. Moreover, education teaches one to be successful in his preferred job or career.

According to Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on its Provincial Development Index (PDI) captured last May 27, 2022, the Human Development Index (HDI) of Bataan, which involves the status of the community's Education, Health, and Per Capita Income, has been of high value for years because of the Lifelong Learning program. In relation, the program which was authored by Hon. Jose Teofilo "Joet" S. Garcia redirected the province's education since its connection with UNESCO in 2015.

Garcia and his siblings are regarded as the country's most exemplary leaders. One reason may be the improved HDI of the province. Their vision to enhance the life status of each family paved the way for discovering programs that will improve the situation of the Bataños. The lifelong learning program is one which they proposed. Moreover, making it, a bill will somehow strengthen its effect as it will be funded appropriately. Thus, we all know that projects and programs generally fail because of the scarcity of resources.

Everybody deserves to be educated. Whether primary, regular or Lifelong Education, it should be given to those interested in it. Learning Cities that are to provide education aside from primary and traditional education should be given a chance to improve learning in a community. Thus, Lifelong Educational Institutions should be monitored whether proper education is implemented.

Learning Cities Masterplan was created with an intelligent framework. A framework where vital agencies of the government such as Local Government Units (LGU); Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED); Technical Education and Skills development Authorities (TESDA) take part. The framework will essentially be a part of the program's planning and execution, including its budgetary proceedings.

Lifelong Educational institutions can work hand in hand with the country's primary, secondary, and tertiary education. Furthermore, the curriculum of each phase can be used regardless of sex, culture, and status. Thus, the methods which will be used should be monitored by the authorities of the institutions.

Support and Subsidy for Lifelong Institutions will only work when appropriately supervised. The genuine concern of authorities concerned with the program will bring it to success. Consequently, leaders of the agency program will run continuously only when the program is included in the annual planning.

"It takes a village to raise a child!" The government initiated a program that will help not only a few but most. It was proven for years. Let us all involve ourselves with a program that may sustain our better living. The more we indulge ourselves, the more we will be responsible for its effect. The more positive the product, the more we will be inspired to work harder.

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