

## **READING: PILLAR OF SOCIETY**

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The Department of Education recognizes learning to read as one of the most important educational outcomes of primary education. The education agency reiterates that the ability to read is fundamental to children's learning, including their development of broader literacy skills, and to their future successful participation in society, including the workforce.

The United Nations hails reading and writing as pillars of sustainable societies and is encouraging everyone, and in particular young people, to discover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthers the social and cultural progress of humanity.

In the Alternative Learning System (ALS), the inclusion of reading in the Presentation Portfolio Assessment was stipulated in Joint Memorandum DM-CI-2022-126 from the Office of the Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction. Part of the inter-district is the conduct of reading tests in English and Filipino. Meaning, that ALS learners cannot be considered completers unless they will pass the needed reading test.

While studies and research revealed the need to address the reading problems of the learners, the dilemma seems to be persistently present among Filipino learners. The Palace itself in 2019 admitted that poor reading comprehension of Filipino students is a reality. In 2018, the global survey Programme for International Assessment (PISA), among 600,000 students worldwide, Filipino students around the age of 15 got a rating of 340 points in reading comprehension, lower than the average of 487 points. The study also placed the country last among 79 countries.

With a sense of urgency, the DepEd launched "*Hamon: Bawat Bata Bumabasa (3Bs Initiative)*" to equip the learners with reading skills to make them proficient and independent readers in their grade level, capacitate teachers to become effective reading teachers, and nurture a culture of reading in schools, communities, and various level of governance.

According to UNESCO, there are 175 million adolescents in the world who are unable to read a single sentence. The specialized agency of the UN is committed to leading the fight against illiteracy, and for reading to be included as a crucial ingredient of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The goals of UNESCO mirror all the objectives of the nations around the world in making every learner a proficient reader equipped with essential skills and competencies for lifelong learning. And this can be realized if every member of the education community lends an extending hand to help every struggling reader because it may seem basic but reading is a strong pillar of a sustainable society.

#### References:

**Hamon: Bawat Bata Bumabasa (3Bs Initiative)**

[www.deped.gov.ph](http://www.deped.gov.ph)

June 21, 2022

**DepEd encourages teachers, parents to use Reading Progress Tool to assess learners' reading skills**

[www.deped.gov.ph](http://www.deped.gov.ph)

June 21, 2022

**On World Book Day, UN hails reading and writing as pillars of sustainable societies**

[www.news.un.org](http://www.news.un.org)

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**Why students have poor reading comprehension**

[www.manilatimes.net](http://www.manilatimes.net)

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