

NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

by:

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“The Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd) Program is DepEd’s response to the right of indigenous peoples (IP) to basic education that is responsive to their context, respects their identities, and promotes the value of their indigenous knowledge, skills, and other aspects of their cultural heritage.” The most active implementer of the IPEd program is the Alternative Learning System in the Division of Bataan, the Education Program Supervisor of ALS is the very same person who acts as the focal person of IPEd together with her 2 diligent Education Program Specialists for ALS.

Teamwork is very powerful for a formidable change, from the Regional Office, the focal person of IPEd is a former ALS teacher. Cooperation and teamwork are not new to these people who are serving both IPs and ALS learners considerably the depressed, deserted, and the underserved – the same root of learners. Serving our minorities is not foreign to almost all of the ALS teachers in Bataan. Numerous partnership programs were launched ever since IPEd started in the province.

ALS implementers are always present in almost every activity of IPEd, most especially in the creation of IPEd Curriculum Framework. Issued by the DepEd as per DepEd Order No. 32, s. 2015, it is the foundation of all the succeeding activities and affairs. DepEd provides basic education for the indigenous people and at the same time recognizes and preserves their culturally rooted pattern. Local Government Units also support IPEd programs. It is the ALS family who truly understands the cultural upbringing of our Aetas because they are the helping arm of the National Commission on Indigenous People and other agencies that extend help to our minorities.

ALS teachers in Bataan are trained in the different cultures of our indigenous people - the Aetas. Personally, these teachers experienced the real-life situations of our brothers and sisters who live uphill, the IKSP (Indigenous Knowledge Skills and Practices) of these people primarily are being immersed, experienced, and learned by the ALS teachers. Even several seminars, training, and other enhancement medium are employed to capacitate these implementers. In the long run, ALS teachers and our indigenous people have developed rapport, especially with the elders of their tribes they have a harmonious connection because in every activity and affair they are bonded together. A regular IPED month during October is celebrated with several different schedules from tribe to tribe and for some of these affairs, some ALS teachers are requested to be present that day.

Serving the last, the lost and the least is not an easy task for the ALS teachers, but they are determined and passionate in performing their duties in order for an individual to penetrate the tribe of our indigenous people one must gain the trust and confidence of these people and later switch to love and respect for one another. ALS implementers are reaching for these aborigines to give them basic education so that no individual will be left behind in terms of basic education.

References:

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