

## **DRIVERS AND PLANNERS: EDUCATIONAL LEADER'S CALL**

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*“Everything that is happening to the universe is a result of a complex chain of events. It will continuously flow in the direction of momentum until an external factor intervenes and breaks the cycle.”*

American author, life coach, and philanthropist, Anthony Jay Robbins stressed that problems are the gifts that make us dig out and figure out who we are, what we're made for, and what we're responsible to give back to life.

Schools as formal learning institutions are no exemption from this challenging reality. For any established educational and learning organizations to survive, they must adamantly address school problems with optimum use of available resources for the benefit of the learners.

Understandably, effective school leaders and managers develop master plans to discern, overview, analyze, and resolve institutional problems converting them to favorable outcomes. Planning is an intricate but hackneyed concept in the simplest management model along with organizing, directing, monitoring, and evaluating (controlling). But boxing the concept in education becomes more complicated.

The timeline of the Philippine education system echoes the need for reforms to address specific problems in education. The bombarding dilemmas and challenges in the education department demand viable solutions and place greater mandatory responsibility on the educational leaders to competently plan; making educational planning imperative and an absolute necessity.

Years ago, Balanga City envisioned being a “University Town by 2020.” The city government developed a master plan towards achieving the goal by addressing challenges in health, employment, environment, security, and even disaster preparedness. Fast-tracked to recent years, the sole component city of the province is recognized by UNESCO as a “learning city” creating a congenial environment that encourages learning among citizens of all ages and

becoming the “Mecca of Educational Progress and Innovation” with highly educated citizens and highly skilled workforce who play an active role in the governance of the city.

The situations positively climaxed because of the successful educational planning of the leaders.

Educational planning is the foundation of all management – it puts into flesh the vision and mission of educational institutions. It ensures the success of any learning institution by predicting earlier the possible issues, conditions, and constraints that will hamper attaining the set objectives and envisioned goals. While planning cannot eliminate unexpected events without planning all events become unexpected. It is also a congealed response to the naturally dwindling resources (human and physical) by utilizing it for optimum use saving time, effort, and money.

Planning what is to happen is one thing; having everything in readiness so it can happen, is another. It is therefore imperative that good educational planners are excellent educational executors. Feasible educational plans must not only be backed up by contingency plans but by identifying the right people for a particular task and continuously monitoring and evaluating loopholes and lapses in the process to avoid creating another plan.

It is an inevitable reality that educational leaders must devise educational plans for the benefit of the governed. Cliché as it may sound, if educational leaders fail to plan, then they plan to fail.

“Everything that is happening to the universe is a result of a complex chain of events. It will continuously flow in the direction of momentum until an external factor intervenes and breaks the cycle – SOUND EDUCATIONAL PLANNING.

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