

M A T A T A G

by:

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In any innovative environment like the Department of Education, whole array of meaningful developments is expected to evolve and being matatag is an essential key to its advancement. Matatag is synonymous with being matibay, pipis, maigting, malakas, patuloy and walang tigil.

Last January 30, 2023, DepEd Secretary Sara Z. Duterte formally launched the “MATATAG: Bansang Makabata, Batang Makabansa.” This will serve as guide to the new direction of DepEd and stakeholders in addressing the challenges of our Basic Education.

MAKING the curriculum relevant to produce job-ready, active and responsible citizens is an integral agendum for the resilient reforms of the basic education. Strong and relevant curriculum will ensure that learners can achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. Developing foundational skills on literacy and numeracy in early grades will be part of its core design. 21st Century Skills, Discipline and Patriotism among learners are also included in restructuring the curriculum. Revitalizing Science and Technology and Math Programs will also be prioritized. The applicability of our curriculum to the needs, aspirations and expectations of the students and society is the first step of our reform journey for being MATATAG.

TAKING steps to accelerate the delivery of basic education services and provision of facilities was also given emphasis by our DepEd Secretary. To fulfill this goal, School Infrastructure and Facilities Strand in the DepEd is created. Its mandate is to build more resilient schools and classrooms to close its remaining gaps with policies to eliminate

corruption. Establishing fully functional library hubs and provision of electricity to schools and e-classroom packages for teaching and learning are among the top priorities.

TAKing good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusive education and a positive learning environment must be something above and beyond. MATATAG will continue the commitment for an Inclusive Education Program. Existing programs such as Special Education (SPed), Indigenous People's Education (IPed), Last Mile Schools and Alternative Learning System (ALS) will be strengthened to address the needs of learners. MATATAG will ensure to provide education to children and youth in situations of disadvantage. It will also institutionalize the reintegration program for adolescent mothers, Conflict at Risk (CAR) and Children with Conflict with the Law (CICL).

Give support for teachers to teach better is the last but not the least as every agendum bears equal importance. MATATAG will continue to provide professional development programs for school personnel. It will fast-track the implementation of the Career Progression Policy and utilize the Merit Selection Policy. DepEd is also finding ways on how come up with additional benefits for teachers. The expansion of the coverage for the grant of Special Hardship Allowance is mentioned. Implementation of the policy on the distribution of teacher workload and payment of teaching overload are also discussed.

DepEd is matatag. Learners and stakeholders are matatag. And we, teachers are matatag. We can all face various challenges by holding to our firm commitment to quality education. Just trust the process. It may be long but surely it is going to be fruitful.

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