

## MATATAG CURRICULUM: A TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE FOR THE PHILIPPINES

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In this country surrounded by various random challenges, Filipinos should always find ways to stand strong, and be resilient – to survive and thrive.

In 2012, through Republic Act 10533, Philippines, being one of the three countries in the world along with Djibouti and Angola of Africa having a 10-year basic education, started implementing the K+12 Basic Education Curriculum – a curriculum which added two more years in the basic education that is believed to give a better education to the Filipino students. The Philippine government assumed this to be the solution to make its people more skillful, more creative, and more prepared for life in college, employment, or business.

With this initiative, the Philippines still seemed behind the goal of raising the academic performance of Filipinos. It faced barricades of failure as reports revealed the low and weak performance of students in various national and international standardized assessments. According to the Philippine Business for Education in their report on the State of Philippine Education, there should be a change in the Philippine educational system. The report cited educational crisis the country is faced with.

In the report of PBE, the rate of completion for secondary education dropped to 30.5% while that for elementary education decreased to 24.4% from 82.4%. In the results of the 2018 Program for International Student Assessment, out of 79 countries who participated, the Philippines ranked lowest in reading literacy and second lowest in

Mathematics and Science. In addition to this, the 2022 PISA result also revealed the same as the country ranked 77th out of 81 participating countries.

These numbers caused the Department of Education to assess the K+12 Curriculum to determine gaps and issues through the Assessment Curriculum and Technology Research Centre (ACTRC). This is done to recalibrate the curriculum and solve the needs of the curriculum. This prompted them to revise K+12 Curriculum which then resulted to the implementation of the MATATAG Curriculum which means “resilient” in English. This purposes to address the issues of K12 Curriculum and provide better learning experiences to students which are responsive to the needs of time.

With the introduction of this new curriculum, education now emphasizes the development of soft skills which include critical and analytical thinking, creativity, and problem solving skills prioritizing the development of 21st century skills.

In addition, Matatag aims to integrate learning experiences for students which are more significant and relevant. It emphasizes the integration of cultural sensitivity recognizing the significance of contextualization in Philippine Education which has been lacking in K+12 Curriculum.

In addition, this curriculum gives opportunities to learners with disabilities and those who come from poor communities. This means that all students are provided limitless chance to study and succeed in their education.

In summary, the introduction of this new curriculum, the Matatag Curriculum, is a clear vision of positively stepping towards addressing the gaps of the K to 12 curriculum and of providing an education that is relevant and inclusive. With our combined efforts, this curriculum will be a success in shaping the future of education in the Philippines, and the Philippines itself.

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