

## REDEFINING THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION

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Societal needs and progressions dovetail with curriculum transformations. As the world evolves, it requires a wide array of higher-order thinking skills, students must acquire the appropriate skills to be globally competitive and the educational landscape must adapt to better prepare the next generation.

The Department of Education (DepEd) has launched the MATATAG Curriculum for the school year 2024-2025, focusing on Grades 1, 4, and 7 in reference to DM 54, s. 2023 or the Pilot Implementation of the MATATAG Curriculum. According to the DepEd (2023), it centers on four critical components, which are: **MA**ke the curriculum relevant to produce capable and accountable citizens; **TA**ke steps to accelerate the provision of facilities and services for basic education; **TA**ke good care of learners by encouraging inclusive education, a healthy learning environment, and the well-being of learners; and **GI**ve support to educators to improve their teaching skills.

Undeniably, the current curriculum has a substantial number of essential learning competencies, whereas the MATATAG Curriculum aims to decongest through the reduction of the desirable learning competencies for each quarter. These steps aim to provide implementers with an instructional space and review the order of the learning competencies both within and between curriculum content domains.

This clamor to revisit the K to 10 program is further amplified as Filipino learners continue to perform poorly in international assessments, one of which is the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results, with the Philippines ranking 78th out of 78 countries in 2018 and 77th out of 81 countries (OECD, 2023). The results are

attributed to the learning losses, excessive number of learning capacities with very little teaching time. So, from 3,120 competencies in the English subject, it has been reduced to 670 in the MATATAG Curriculum as reported by Hernando-Malipot (2023).

Indeed, the new curriculum is a significant leap for the Filipinos, but when implemented and adapted appropriately, it would be the Philippines' lifesaver to holistically develop learners and improve the county's basic education.

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