

ELAPSE MOTHER- TONGUE INSTRUCTION

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In the pursuit of quality education, the medium of communication in the formative years of a child is very crucial, thus the discontinued use of mother tongue in grades 1-3 raises brows among spectators.

The lapse law- Republic Act 12027 or the Act Discontinuing the Use of Mother Tongue as a Medium of Instruction makes the use of regional languages optional in monolingual classes and supersedes Republic Act No. 10533 otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013.

The Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) program has been discontinued because of ineffective implementation and insufficient government backing. Though it has great potential, the program has not achieved its objectives, as only 9% of schools adhere to the four primary conditions set by DepEd – orthography, grammar, learning resources, and dictionary. Additionally, the bureaucratic framework of the DepEd has faced challenges in adapting to the nation's languages, resulting in displeasure among different groups, such as parents, local leaders, lawmakers, and even educators.

Further, despite having 245 reported languages in the country, DepEd only covers 19 languages in the country which represents just 8% of all languages listed in the census. One more thing, scarcity of materials and textbooks in mother tongue is also a significant issue observed.

Additionally, by reintroducing Filipino and English as the main languages of instruction, the government can tackle the issues encountered by the MTB-MLE program. This action can facilitate the education system, making certain that students obtain a uniform and top-notch education. Moreover, it can enhance communication and teamwork among students, educators, and parents from various linguistic backgrounds.

Though concerns about cultural identity and promoting national languages are valid, they can be addressed through alternative means. Mother -tongue can still be used as an auxiliary in teaching various subjects allowing students to learn literacy skills and cultural awareness.

In summary, although the choice to stop using the mother tongue as the primary language of instruction in kindergarten through grade 3 has generated debate, it doesn't have to be viewed as a disadvantage. By tackling the obstacles encountered by the MTB-MLE program and adopting a more effective strategy, the government can guarantee that students obtain a quality education that equips them for achievement in a progressively globalized environment.

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