



NEWS

QCU Starts Second Semester, AY 2023-2024, with a Flag-Raising Ceremony

| Nicole Mayo

QCU students and staff convened at the QCU Triangle for a flag-raising ceremony on January 15, 2024, at 7:18AM, marking the kickoff of the second semester for AY 2023-2024.

The event was facilitated by the Quality Assurance Office, led by Dr. Glenda Rebutas.

The OIC Dean of the College of Computer Studies, Prof. Lalaine Carrao, gave a short values formation talk focusing on the significance of integrity in daily life.

This was followed by the inspirational message of Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, QCU President, who highlighted in her address the challenges of harnessing education to attain a good evaluation. "Hindi pwedeng makuntento sa tres lang when you are thriving," Dr. Atienza stated.

She also announced that the university will celebrate its 30th anniversary starting March 1, and this milestone will be celebrated the whole year.

"Thriving is growth, thriving is development, thriving is flourishing—kapag nag t-thrive tayo, umuunlad tayo," Dr. Atienza ended.

The programme concluded with the singing of the QCU hymn.

QCU Conducts Community Immersion Orientation for its NSTP Students

By: Nicole Mayo



Jannah Quilao

January 19- QCU Conducts Community Immersion Orientation for its NSTP Students

QCU hosted its National Service Training Program (NSTP) 2 Orientation for Community Immersion on January 19, 2024, at the QCU Gymnasium, covering essential topics such as internal guidelines, required documents, pre- and during immersion protocols, and the specific target community.

The event, led by the NSTP faculty, was organized to prepare students for their upcoming community immersion experience and to provide them with the necessary information and expectations to ensure a meaningful and respectful engagement with the community.

One of the featured speakers during the orientation was Mrs. Isabel Calvo, an NSTP instructor, who underscored the significance of community immersion as a platform for students to interact with diverse individuals and reciprocate the support received from citizens contributing to their education at QCU.

The NSTP also announced that upon the completion of the community immersion, students are required to submit their AY 2022-2023 Student's Accomplishment Report. This report will function as a comprehensive portfolio, documenting the entirety of their community immersion journey.

FORGOTTEN WISDOM: A CALL FOR ACADEMIC ACTION

By: Rafael Thomas Tuason & Lorraine Acaylar

The promise to provide free education for every Filipino child has been deeply embedded in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Yet, despite this admirable goal, our country continues to struggle with persistently high dropout rates and lackluster academic performances on both national and global scale.

The recent unveiling of the 2022 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) results has cast a grim shadow over our education system. It is disheartening to see our country lagging behind, not just by a few steps but by a staggering five to six years in learning competencies.

The facts speak for themselves: with an overall PISA score of 353, the Philippines ranked 78th out of 81 countries that participated in the program. The country is 5th with the lowest PISA scores. Scoring 355 in math, 356 in science, 347 in reading, and 76th in global ranking. This is the second time that the country has landed in the top 10 with the lowest PISA scores. This is not just a statistical anomaly; it's a stark reflection of systemic issues deeply entrenched within our education system.

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte has also admitted that the 2022 PISA results "bear an uncomfortable truth" and can be used as a basis to work on the strengths and weaknesses of the country's education system. However, mere acknowledgment won't suffice; concrete measures must be taken to address the root causes of our educational woes.

The education sector receives the most national budget, placing a strong emphasis on the overall academic system of the country. So, where is the problem? Here are the possible factors that affect the academic performance of a student.

One of the pressing issues that needs urgent attention is the widespread influence of poverty on education. It's heart shattering to think that a significant fraction of our students cannot afford basic school supplies, let alone the cost of projects and assignments. This financial burden pushes many bright young minds to the sidelines, robbing countless of their potential achievements.

Moreover, the mental health of our students cannot be overlooked. The relentless pressure to excel, coupled with unrealistic expectations from

family and society, takes a heavy toll on young shoulders. We need to foster a nurturing learning environment where students feel supported and are not suffocated by the weight of academic demands. In various social media platforms, students are even vocal about these issues.

Another critical aspect that demands scrutiny is the lack of teacher support. Our educators, the unsung heroes of our society, are overworked and underpaid, leading many to seek greener pastures abroad or lose their passion for their profession altogether. Without motivated and adequately compensated teachers, our education system is doomed to failure.

Furthermore, the practice of mass promotion of students, regardless of their academic performance, is a disservice to both students and teachers alike. The misguided notion of "No Child Left Behind" has left many students ill-prepared for the challenges that lie ahead, while burdening teachers with the herculean task of remediation during the summer months. Connecting with the underpaid teachers, teachers would also be blamed for their students' failures; they would be forced to remediate a significant number of classes during the summer.

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NEWS

QCU Conducts Anti-Hazing Awareness Seminar

By: Krhyss Kringle Tuba-on

The Supreme Student Council (SSC) and the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS) organized an anti-hazing awareness seminar titled **"Safe Spaces, Strong Bonds: Anti-Hazing Awareness"** at QCU Gymnasium on January 26, 2024. The event was attended by cadets from the QCU Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and students from the Civic Learning Training Service (CWTS). The focus was on the Anti-Hazing law, the various acts of hazing, penalties for violating the law, and previous incidences that led to the enactment of the law.

The seminar began with the opening remarks of the OIC-Dean, Lalaine M. Carrao, of the College of Computer Studies. This was followed by the



Tanghalang Quezon City (TQCU) musicians performing a few songs to uplift the audience's spirits.

The first speaker, Police Staff Sergeant (PSSg.) Germito Millette Loria Jr. from the PNP Station Investigation Detective Management (SIDMU) provided an overview of hazing and its consequences. He also offered valuable advice to the attendees: "Do not get involved in any organizations

that perform any hazing acts towards the neophytes or applicants," said PSSg. Loria. Also invited was PSSg. Giovanni Delmiguez Merilo from Novaliches Police Station 4 discussed the rights of students as well as the penalties for violating the Anti-Hazing Law. He assured the attendees that the police would protect them under any circumstances.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, QCU President, stands firmly and delivers her closing remarks as she expresses her gratitude to the organizers of this program. "We are ensuring that QCU is a safe space. Dapat walang bullying, sexual harassment, at lalong walang hazing," added Dr. Atienza.

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According to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), these are only the major concerns that affect student performance. Behavioral issues, infrastructure, and technological advancement come into play in their performance as well.

Filipino students and teachers have been complaining for years that there are a lot of requirements to be made and submitted that hold no value. It would be better if they started focusing on teaching necessary information rather than teaching tons of information that would not be used in their upcoming years. The saddening fact is that both teachers and students are tired, and we are still being left behind by the world in terms of education.

The recent launch of "MATATAG K-10" by Vice President Sara Duterte signals a glimmer of hope amidst the darkness. The amendments to the K-12 curriculum, aimed at streamlining learning areas and reducing unnecessary competencies, are a step in the right direction. By focusing on essential knowledge and skills rather than overwhelming students with irrelevant information, we can pave the way for a more effective and efficient education system.

Grades 1 to 2 will be composed of five subjects. The former would have Language, Reading and Literacy,

Mathematics, Makabansa, and Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC). Removing the mother tongue and integrating Araling Panlipunan (AP), Music, Arts, Physical Education, and Health (MAPEH) into one subject as "Makabansa" and it would be taught up until the third grade.

Grade 3 would have science as their sixth subject. Starting in Grade 4, students would have their 8th graders add Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) and Filipino. Additionally, GRMC would become Values starting in 7th grade. This would reduce the learning competencies from over 11,700 to 3,664 across all stated subjects.

The program may have been released this year, but the implementation would start next year and would be fully implemented by the academic year 2027-2028. However, the real test lies in the implementation of these reforms. It's not enough to merely announce changes on paper; we must ensure that they are executed effectively and inclusively.

The fight for educational equity and excellence is a collective endeavor that requires the commitment and collaboration of all stakeholders. From policymakers to parents, teachers to students, we must all work together to build a brighter future for the next generation of Filipinos. It's time to

dismantle systemic inequalities, fight poverty, and prioritize the needs of the marginalized.

Education serves as a guiding compass for every individual, not only leaving us with knowledge but also developing critical thinking skills that lead to enlightenment and a prosperous world. Individuals with higher levels of education have diverse options for their career path, becoming the architects of their destinies.

Education is indeed the most powerful weapon we have to change the world, as Nelson Mandela famously said. But for that weapon to be truly effective, it must be wielded wisely and with purpose. Let's take this moment as an opportunity to reignite academic excellence, rediscover the essence of learning, and reshape the destiny of the Philippine education system, not just for the sake of statistics but for the sake of every Filipino child who deserves a chance to thrive and succeed in the global arena.

"The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University."

FEATURE

Freed from the Dictator's Grasp

By: Patrick Ernest Bigbig



The noise of agony could be heard through day and night — fire and bullets flowed like a river through a mountain of Jews. The Holocaust was a genocide of six million Jews at the hands of Nazis between 1941 and 1945.

Adolf Hitler was German and the leader of the Nazis. His desire to expand their territory grew stronger, and as they invaded and conquered several territories, European Jews came under their control.

The Nazis' policy towards the Jews moved from forced emigration to mass murder. By 1945, when the Allied nations defeated Germany in World War II, the Nazis and their collaborators had murdered six million European Jews.

To commemorate this history, the United Nations General Assembly declared January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Tied to the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the day also commemorates the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and a purpose to promote Holocaust education throughout the world.

In the dark chapter of history, the Holocaust stands as a witness to the suffering and sorrows of one's mistake. It is important to be educated about the torture people endured. The genocide orchestrated by the Nazi regime entails not only remembrance but also a commitment to understanding the socio-political perspective that led to this incident.



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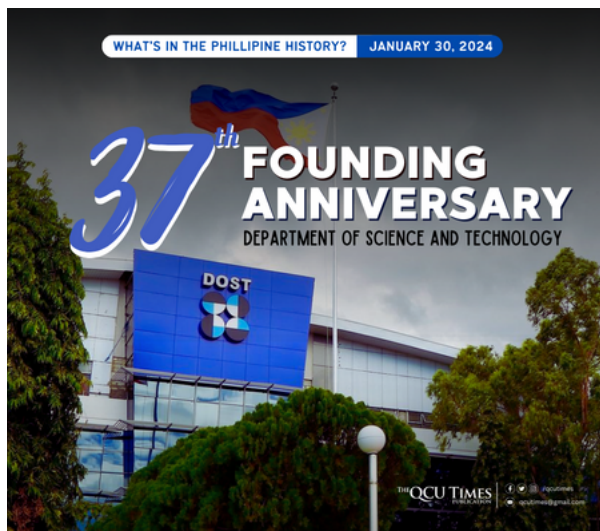


Malolos Constitution under President Aguinaldo months after the declaration of Philippine Independence. This day should be commemorated as a celebration of freedom, courage, and national pride for the Filipino people.

Words By: Rhea Claire Angela Vinluan

On January 30, 1987, a significant event took place in the field of science and technology, when former President Corazon C. Aquino renamed the then National Science and Technology Authority (NSTA) to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). This development emerged with the birth of several innovations in these fields, such as microelectronics, which led to smaller, lighter, and more efficient electronic devices.

Words By: Rhea Claire Angela Vinluan



NEWS



QCU and Maynilad Water Services Inc. Signs MoU for Water Education and Career Development

Quezon City University and Maynilad Water Services Inc. solidified their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on January 30, 2023.

The agreement aims to enhance water education, research, and career development for QCU students. Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, QCU President, and Engr. Rodora N. Gamboa, MWA Executive Director, led the signing, marking a strategic collaboration between the two institutions.

Words By: Lorraine Acaylar