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**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

*Isaiah 41:10*

## City gives vaccination to over 52,000 children

**CITY OF SANTA ROSA, LAGUNA** – A week after the City’s action plan on cases of measles was laid, this city has vaccinated 49% of the targeted children.

In its action plan, the city will vaccinate against measles a total of 52,544 children with ages 6-59 months old by March 15 this year.

During a meeting held February 26, 2019, Dr. Soledad Rosanna Cunanan, City Health Officer II, reported that to date total of 24,919 children have been vaccinated.

The action plan was laid down in response to the growing number



of measles cases in the country. In Santa Rosa, before the action plan was implemented, 52 cases with one (1) death were reported.

After one week, 34 cases were reported, bringing the total to 86 cases.

Cunanan,

however, expressed confidence that the cases will be reduced as soon as the team proceed with the massive vaccination.

Vaccination will no longer be limited in the health offices and the Santa Rosa Community Hospital. To ensure that the cases are

reduced and to meet the target, vaccination will be conducted in the health centers of the 18 barangays. Designated fixed posts will also be installed in puroks, which will be announced.

This city will hire additional nurses for one

month to assist the health offices and the barangay health workers in the conduct of the planned door-to-door vaccination drive.

The Santa Rosa Community Hospital has created a measles ward to address the number of patients.

The hospital has also requested for additional nurses to augment the current number of nurses in the ward.

The Division of Schools of Santa Rosa, on the other hand, will conduct school-based vaccinations in schools after getting the consent of parents.

Meanwhile, the regional office of the Department of Health in Region 4 has committed to provide the vaccines to the City Government.

Non-government organizations such as the Philippine Red Cross and Rotary Club are assisting in

dissemination.

For inquiries on the vaccination drive and relevant information on measles, residents are urged to contact Dr. Cunanan of City Health Office I at 530-0015 local 5309 and 5310, Dr. Erwin Escal of City Health Office II at 544-1285, and Dr. Parnell Patacsil of Santa Rosa Community Hospital at 533-9098, 534-4571. City Information Officer I, Tugaris Zapanta, can also be contacted at 0927-626-7869.

Residents may also inquire with the barangays regarding the vaccination.

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*Health & Wellness*

## EDITOR THINKS



### Like Waking The Dead

by Jo Chanco

“Well at least now you don’t have to keep renewing your driver’s license every so often. And even your passport. “ Duterte fanatics proudly assert this so-called achievement of the president in social media.

It’s a good point to consider, as the processes to renew these documents can be inconvenient. But beyond expediency, this point is neutralized by several counterarguments. And almost immediately it loses its merits as a progressive directive, even more so as a justification for the strange “pro-Duterte bravado” we still see around us nowadays.

We can start with the need to update ID photos, biometrics, residential information and authenticity seals. A ten-year interval for renewal, or even just five years, may prove too long for identification information to remain accurate. Anti-counterfeit measures will also be less effective if security marks stay unchanged for such an extended amount of time. These concerns are not only reasonable but well-founded enough to debunk the recent extension on the validity of passports and driver’s licenses from being a sound decision. It certainly can’t be a basis to worship the ground that Duterte walks on.

The point is, it’s the same story for all the supposed “changes” that the Duterte administration has rolled forth since its onset. Duterte’s “War on Drugs” has left thousands of drug suspects dead. Yet it hasn’t made a dent on the operations of the real drug lords behind the importation and distribution of contraband substances. The drug problem is worse than ever. Tons and tons of “shabu” are smuggled into the country by an invisible Chinese syndicate. Still, Duterte chooses to be cozy with China.

What Duterte did to Marawi is far more terrible than any terror group has done to a Philippine city. He did not liberate it as he claims. He obliterated it...completely. Bombed it to kingdom come. Left countless of lives uprooted, scattered and, for almost three years now, in despair. And despite the “Build, Build, Build” mantra (and the taxation meted for it), along with multi-billions of pesos allotted for the city’s recovery, Marawi is still in ruins. Now there seems to be even a denial of the government’s responsibility to rebuild it.

Rehabilitating Boracay is good. But not if it serves only as a cover for more sinister agendas. Talks of backroom land-grabbing and economic sabotage were rampant during the island’s closure. And now we see a tendency for exclusivity and the imposition of unpatriotic preferences govern in the very rules of Boracay tourism.

The Manila Bay “Clean Up? Well...it will be all for naught if the bay will be buried anyway under reclamation dirt. Capitalists close to Duterte, and affiliated with Chinese big business, have expressed intent to reclaim the area, bearing plans to put up casino resorts and retail hubs. So bye-bye to the environmental concerns that drove the clean up in the first place.

What is the point of abolishing “Endo” (contractualization) if we allow troops and troops of undocumented Chinese workers to take job opportunities from Filipino workers, paying these illegal aliens seven or even ten times more in wages?

### The Demonic Legion

Duterte fanatics, also called Dutertards, are notoriously double standard. They do not welcome nor recognize the validity of any argument, no matter how sensible, if it questions or opposes many of the government’s moves. They are like accomplices putting a gag on those calling people’s attention while a crime is being committed.

Blind fanaticism, ignorance and cognitive dissonance diminish much of their reasoning to plain lunacy. Such unconditional support will not even endure an intelligent debate. Defending him with senseless babble and hollow premises, they often end up just saying, “That’s what the president wants, so just be quiet and obey. You can’t be more knowledgeable than him.”

Dutertards will claim that the anti-Duterte forces are the ones spreading fake news. They assert themselves as the ones bearing the facts and the truth. Even when it is mostly pro-Duterte sites that are taken down from Facebook for deceitful schemes and for the spread of untruths. They will call internationally acclaimed journalists stupid. Instead, they will follow the biased narratives of propagandists, glorified state-sponsored trolls masquerading as journalists. They are too deluded to realize that a real journalist’s only bias is the truth...the very truth that these Dutertards are in denial of. And they refuse to concede to the fact that they cannot be genuine fighters against fake news if they do not, at first, battle the fake news proliferated by the government.

Government-funded news outlets would report events where Duterte is given exclusive highlight in ribbon-cutting ceremonies for infrastructure projects conceptualized and initiated during the P-Noy Aquino administration. Practically giving Duterte all the glory, they purposely omit to mention any credit to the previous president.

When news are made partial like this, it is no longer a service but a disservice to the people. Real journalists aim to relay the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Propagandists only aim to make people believe what they want them to believe. And if they believe that their biased reporting is nothing but a harmless, “loyalty to party”, “just politics” thing, they are gravely mistaken. For it is as treacherous as false arrests, and as deadly as extra-judicial killings.

When one makes out lies to seem like facts, then the people who listen lose their hold of the truth. When people can no longer discern what is true, there can be no more wisdom, but only folly, in their decisions.

It’s bad enough that Dutertards are running out of truths to back the embattled president’s approval ratings and, thus, now have to cling on to lies. We have to wonder if many see how the situation is about to turn even more dismal.

As it has become a live-or-die imperative that voters choose leaders wisely, a horde of Dutertards will elect out of fanaticism. That means there’s no convincing for this lot. They are fact-resistant bigots which, by definition, makes them extraordinarily stubborn in being so galactically stupid.

For many Dutertards, Ferdinand Marcos is a hero. Imee Marcos is telling the truth about her diplomas, or need not be honest about them. The likes of Joseph Estrada, Gloria Arroyo, Juan Ponce Enrile, Bong Revilla and Jinggoy Estrada are considered trustworthy leaders because of their good track records. There are no extra-judicial killings going on in the Philippines. And China recognizes and respects our sovereignty, with intentions to prosper our national economy and preserve our resources. But with the same breath, they claim to be patriots who

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stand against communists, against crime and corruption, against entitlement and tra-pos, and against fake news. They are fools.

Do all Dutertards believe the foolishness they profess? No, not all of them do. For they do not have the same reasons for supporting Duterte. Some of them are cronies who are complicit in engineering the corruption and deceit. Some are sycophants who directly or indirectly gain from the corruption and deceit. And most are ignorant supporters, blind defenders and, ultimately, clueless victims of the corruption and deceit. At any rate—be it for power, money, or just the entitlement that makes them feel more advantaged than others—they are all partaking in the destruction of our democracy. This is no exaggeration. Our democracy is now gasping its last breaths, rendered inutile by the conspiracy to sabotage it.

You'd have to be an idiot if you think that corruption, fake news, treason, illegal drugs, and the oppression of Filipinos are to be blamed only on the "yellows" and anti-Duterte groups. It's worse if you don't believe in this line of thought, but still proclaim it anyway for your political party's sake. Because then it becomes a moral issue. While thousands die from reckless governance, and as the corrupt incumbents continue to plunder with impunity, you treat it like it were a game, a cheering contest, a sports intramurals, like a "your team lost, our team won" thing. And that's just dumb. A bad leadership that's caused scores of senseless, multiple killings to happen with impunity is nothing to trivialize. The whole nation pays for this "numbing and dumbing down", including you and your children.

This also carries on to a spiritual issue. Catholic bishops are already urging their flock to go for 'the Catholic vote'. Christian ministries are calling out for the 'good vote', saying each should vote according to conscience. Unmistakably though, whether Catholic or protestant Christian, these church leaders do not mean to endorse pro-Duterte candidates when they make such appeals. They are, rather, rooting for those who stand against him.

Hello? Did that register yet? Let's simplify it: Ordained servants of God are anti-Duterte.

These spiritual leaders did not, all of sudden, decide to get into politics and run for public office. And, by no means, are they lackeys paid by the Aquinos to destabilize the government. They simply see the need for a person's political and spiritual leanings to be aligned, if one is to be honest and true to one's self. Many of Duterte's pronouncements goes against teachings in the Bible. And, basically, what the bishops and pastors are saying is you cannot be for God on one hand, while you support an evil ruler on the other.

Spiritual leaders, in teaching us to follow the path to goodness, know that you cannot do so without the ability to discern good from evil. If you say you believe, worship and follow Yahweh or Jesus, you have to be consistent with this belief. If you profess Christianity, but then also condone the reckless killings of your fellow men or cheer for someone who openly mocks God, then something is wrong with you. There's no way you can be a genuine Christian while you support the doings of one who is against Christ...and even tell everybody to ride along the trickery and be quiet about the evil things going on. You can profess your faith from the highest pedestal, but your duality can't fool those who are

authentic in Christ. For they clearly see there is something reprehensible in you, which you are unwilling to surrender. You cannot serve two masters. And your unconditional support for Duterte, wrong or right, speaks volumes about who you truly worship. If you are a Dutertard, ask yourself, really, when do you say "no" to Duterte? You probably question God more often than you question Duterte.

#### Pushing The Nation Off A Cliff

It's not a sin, nor is it illegal to criticize the president if he is erring in his ways. The constitution allows citizens and officials from other branches of government to oppose, and even impeach, a sitting president. It is, in fact, an option, a safeguard, in the event we elect a bad president who is incapable of leading the country, or is untrustworthy.

What is the use of fewer trips to driver's license renewal, if the cost would be the perdition of our civilization in the hands of remorseless reprobates? You wanna talk about waiting in cues and long lines? Try opening your eyes to long lines for water, rice, and the exoneration of those who are already more than five years in jail for petty crimes with no conviction yet by the courts. What about the lengthy list of Marawi denizens who want to go back to their homes, but now have nothing?

The nation is staggering amidst multiple man-made crises, disintegrating sovereignty, senseless violence, a damaged culture and the prospect of future generations buried under massive foreign debt. From a nation of laws, we are plunging towards becoming a nation of bigoted, self-righteous hypocrites who weaponize the law as an advantage over others. Our democracy is being perverted so that it now only serves the power-leeching accomplices and ass-kissing minions who promote deception, injustice, oppression. Our legal system has been tweaked to serve an entitled, abusive class of citizens who will bully others to their hearts' content, just because they are in positions of power or are chummies with the powers-that-be. Yet, Dutertards see nothing wrong except the existence of loathsome anti-Duterte forces. They choose to close their eyes, refusing to see the truth, numbing their senses and killing their consciences. They pretty much reflect the president they elected.

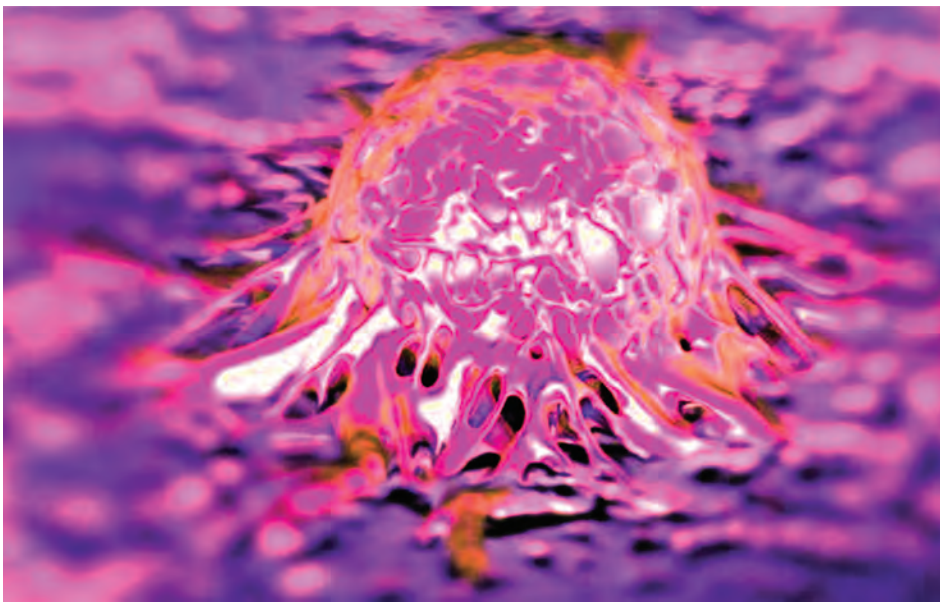
No, it wouldn't be fair to say that Dutertards are what's wrong with this country. But they are certainly making it worse. The blind leading the blind is awful enough. In our current situation, it's the blind, deaf and mute leading the blind, arrogant and stupid. It's quite evident that many are willing to follow Duterte to great extents of chaos, violence, and deceit...even to hell. But not everybody wants to go that way.

A good number of citizens still remain awake. It is, however, a time for true courage to shine. It's a time for heroes, for those who can discern and stand up for what is right. It is a fight for the nation's fate. And in this fight, it is crucial to shake Dutertards from the hypnotic spell that paralyzes their senses, by constantly calling out their bullshit and fakery. Hopefully, the good and the brave will get to wake up those who are asleep, so that they start seeing the truth again, apart from the illusion. Or is it too late?

## Health & Wellness

### Cancer's "Kill Code"

by Gary J. Martinez



Each cell in the body has a "kill code" embedded in it which acts as a switch that causes infected cells to self-destruct. It's like a natural safety measure that automatically turns off the life of the cell once it senses it is mutating into cancer.

The coded is thought to be embedded in large and small protein-coding ribonucleic acids (RNAs). Scientists deduce the code is a product of evolution, developed more than 800 million years ago as natural protection from cancer. Particularly in small RNAs of microRNAs, the code, when triggered becomes a poison to cancer cells. Recent studies also indicate that chemotherapy also activates these toxic microRNA molecules.

Cancer is unable to adapt, and so is very susceptible, to toxic RNAs. If this so-called kill code can be synthetically produced, toxic RNAs can be a very effective cure for the disease.

Now we can trigger this cancer-defense mechanism without resorting to chemotherapy. We can also avoid risky genome-tampering. We can use these microRNAs, inject them into cells directly and turn the "kill switch" on cancer.

Chemotherapy has plenty of negative side effects. It can even be the cause of secondary cancers because it actually damages and alters the genome.

A Northwestern University paper detailing this "kill code" and how the cancer-fighting microRNAs use the code to kill tumor cells was published October 16, 2018 in eLife.

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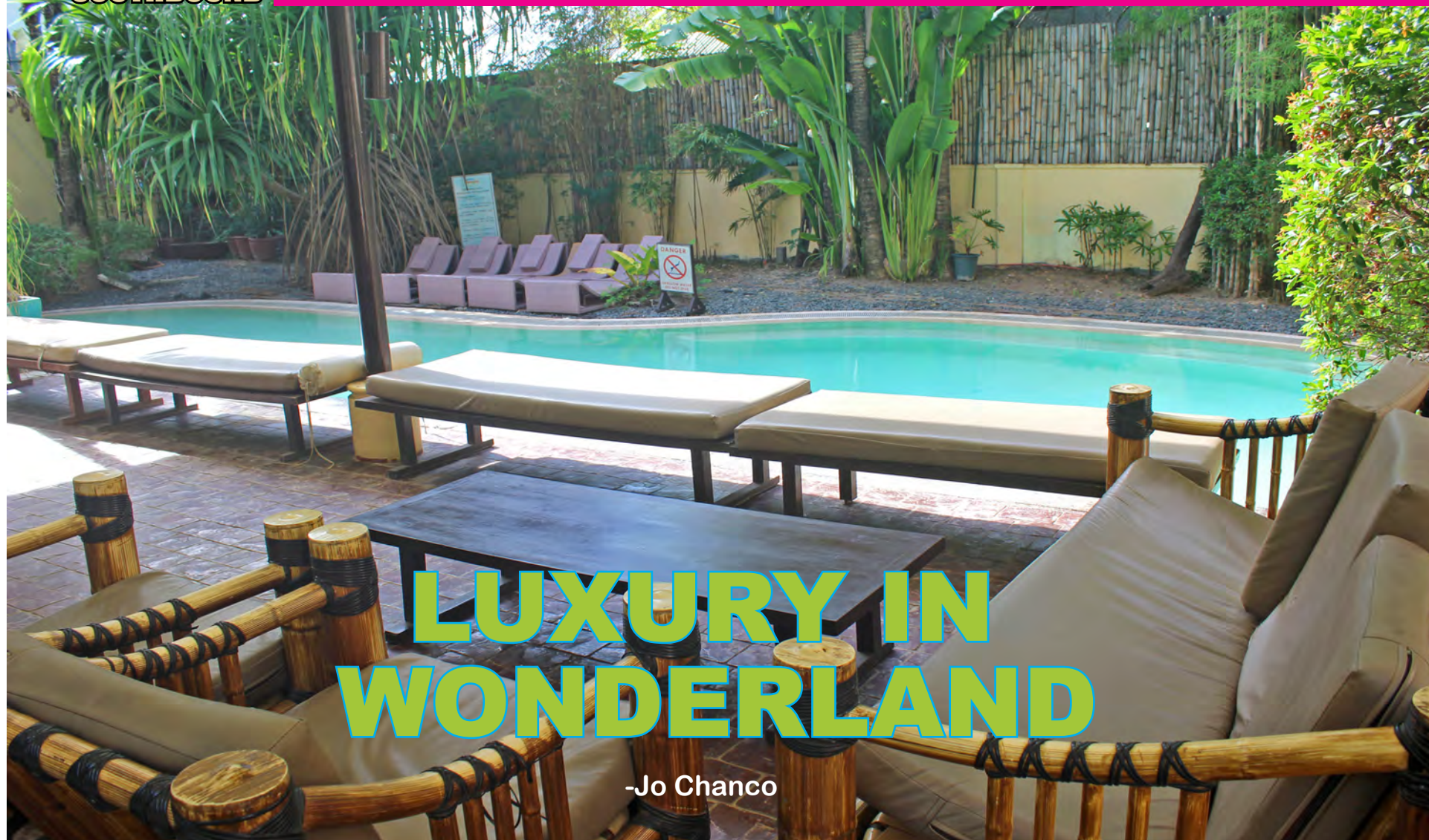
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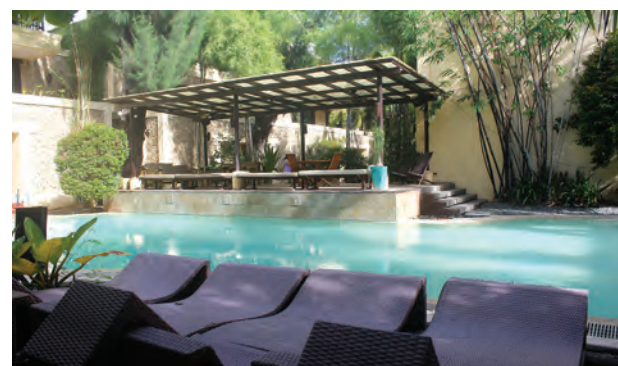


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Top-grade amenities come with the medley of accommodation packages offered. The room configurations are Deluxe, Courtyard and Villa, all with generous enough space. The rooms have big beds, private gardens, verandas, dining areas, lounging corners, and even an in-room kitchen. It's enough lavishness to put Canyon de Boracay ahead of many other resorts.

**Traviesa**, the resort's flagship restaurant, has an international menu, and serves sizable portions. Yes, Boracay is laden with scores of restaurants offering different cuisines. But Traviesa's range of dishes is also considerable. The restaurant can impress—from its crunchy chicken lollipops to the creamy carbonara pasta. Seasonal complimentary breakfast buffets are also extended to the resort's guests.



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# Voice of the South's iEDEX (Information & Education Exchange) promotes "Education For All" by Jo Chanco

Voice of the South's iEDEX (Information and Education Exchange) is 'the south's' premier educational fair. Its purpose is to bring together communities, schools, parents and peripheral businesses in a consortium that determines the current state as well as the future of education.



iEDEX was first launched in 2018. Now on its second year, it advances the idea that all of us are stakeholders in education, and therefore should be and can be lifelong partners in learning. After all, each of us, in our own ways are lifelong learners...and lifelong teachers.

### The Challenges of Mass Education

In our attempt to tackle the subject of mass education in our country, we must first acknowledge that there is indeed a crisis, a lack, an inability to reach what is ideal. We must begin to see how this crisis in education is really a crisis in development. What needs to be changed is, not so much the schools, but rather dysfunctional elements of the larger community. And the dysfunction mostly stems from a widening incongruence in dynamics.

As we explore for solutions, inclusion is paramount. We have to band up. From their own experiences, parents, students, educators and leaders can contribute various insights on education. Cohesively assembled, these insights can help define what education is today and, from this, also give us an idea of what the landscape might be like tomorrow.

Of course, it is equally important to put emphasis on what education was like yesterday. What did education mean some decades back, during the industrial age, compared to what it is now? What changed? Why the change? What aspects of education were supplanted then, and what are those we should deem obsolete now?

What new paradigms are failing to be effective because they are still applied half-heartedly, still in tandem with outdated methodologies, in our fear of a complete breakaway from what we

are familiar with? What other archaic mental attitudes are we refusing to relinquish and thus serve as hindrances to the progressive transformation of our learning institutions?

It's not easy to admit that what we have now is extensively inadequate. Yet, we must, if we are to advance in our quest for better means of education.

The current batch of teachers and the curricula of today's schools cannot, by themselves, maximize the learning potential of the children of this generation. They still churn out antiquated lessons from the industrial age. These lessons are mostly purposed for conditioning masses of students into a life of servitude to corporations, factories and assembly lines. This kind of set-up only equips students with basic skills at best, and perhaps the ability to follow orders, consequently trapping them inside a framework of limitations, if not a false sense of accomplishment. The irony here is that the bigger, more funded, and more prestigious schools are usually the ones playing the role of the stagnant stumbling block. And they do this even willfully and proudly, going to the extent of habitually casting the smaller more progressive learning schools in a bad light.



It is wrong to disregard the efforts or the significance of smaller, progressive educational systems. Usually, these limited cadre of smaller schools are the ones more adaptive to the times. Perhaps because of their limitation, these schools stay clear from the boasts of big traditional schools—that a student is their product and proceed to release them to society as a graduate, a learned individual, fully equipped...ready to go. In contrast, these micronized learning systems instill the most important attitude upon students: lifelong learning.

As we attempt to conceive new

paradigms for mass education, it is imperative to acknowledge what is fundamental. With technology transforming our lives at breakneck speeds, it has become quite easy to lose sight of the basics. We may fail to notice that—in these highly transient, mind-bogglingly sophisticated times—the smaller, more eclectic schools are usually the first to embrace progressive pedagogies. The tendency is to overlook this simple fact when it actually makes a whole world of sense.



Many of these small schools are more open to parents being pro-active in the education of their children. Like in the case of home schooling facilitators, parents are even made to be part of the school body, as a sort of ad hoc faculty. This leads to more direct feedbacks on teaching experiences and a more cooperative and liberal approach in the formation of curricula. Ultimately, this results in an academe whose collective learning efforts are not only bolder and more experimental, but more flexible and adaptable to change. Thus, in these small, down-to-earth casual, and tribal-like learning communities will we most likely find clues that can, at least, describe tomorrow's educational framework.

As a system of learning, education, as all things, needs to change. An evident mismatch between what we are teaching and what we already know can be a chief cause of dysfunction in our society. And, increasingly, knowledge needs to be as current as the news. The inability to catch up, due to inflexibility, renders the entire system almost useless in its aim of promulgating education in its holistic sense, except for the issuance of diplomas and accreditation of degrees.

One can argue that our civilization is fast spiraling down towards chaos and barbarism, despite all the technological advancements and marvelous new ways of living. And it wouldn't be a baseless argument. The pervasive

violence, the lack of integrity in government, and the blatant usurping of human dignity by totalitarian forces bent on corruption are gaping reasons for us to seriously question ourselves and ask, "What have we learned?"

All that loyalty, all the pride we had for our alma maters, the traditional educational institutions, count for nothing. If we are not better citizens today, if we are a worse nation, then the colors, the banners and the emblems of our schools cannot really be worn with pride. For what school taught us to watch in admiration as our leaders conspire to plunder our nation? How can we behave like brain-damaged idiots and do nothing as traitors sell our country's interests to foreign powers? What school subject advanced the idea that the law is only for the powerful to use and abuse for their own ends? What dogma required us to support the killing of thousands of citizens and simply take the word of the killers that these are misfits of society? What religious indoctrination made us believe that God is stupid?

If we cannot tell facts from fake news; if we cannot discern lies from truth; and if we choose instead to rest on double standardism, believing the realities that are only convenient to us—then we know nothing. We have no clue what makes us upright as human beings. All the things we thought we learned, we didn't. We are still as naive and as ignorant as pre-schoolers.



### Dynamic Learning

iEDEX, as a conference of the academic community, is pushing for change in our learning environments. It is premised on the idea that we are all still learning and, thus, should remove any presumption that suggests we are already learned.

Unlike most discussions on education, it does not only propose a constructivist and apprentice-based approach in understanding

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how humans actually learn. Rather, it advances the thought that better avenues to learning abound. But we are blind to these because we refuse to breakaway from the traditional, compartmentalized system we were conditioned to follow.

To have even the slightest idea of the direction where education should be headed, we must go with "the grain of the brain". iEDEX can help blend the cause of different kinds of educators into a seamless web. This way, learning opportunities can permeate better, throughout the Philippine islands.



Hence, what iEDEX really promotes is dynamic learning. This should not be seen as a system, but rather a way of life. It is the active recognition, encouragement and support of both formal and informal education. But at the same time, it is the promotion of community participation, the practical use of technology for the mass assimilation of knowledge, and the emphasis on inserting wisdom in what we know.

It does not connote some grand utopian vision of schools in the future. Nor does it spew ideas of an educational revolution, or a nirvanic point of societal enlightenment. At this point, the luxury to dream ambitiously is superseded by the mere necessity to cope with the relentless changes our society has been experiencing. Despite the noise of falsehood and the violent social, political and economic disruptions, we must address the great mass education backlog. We will perceptibly diminish as a civilization if we don't.



Technology, no doubt, will be a key factor in charting a course across various disciplines. But the new, technology-augmented model for mass education, if there'd be any, must also connect learning to what happens outside the classroom. If we are able to come up with a new educational system that includes at least 90% of the millennials, the most tech savvy of all generations, then we would've succeeded. Only then can we claim that we have a working system for mass education, without deceiving ourselves.

It is not impossible. It is already happening now on its own, except it is happening eclectically, not formally. We see 4-year old kids everywhere learning the alphabet on YouTube. Teens are managing simulation cities on their tablets, raising taxes, designating residential zones and solving power crises in make-believe cities, conscious of their approval ratings as simulation mayors. People are googling everything for information using mobile phones, while traveling, while waiting in lines, or while in the bathroom. From the most recent scientific discoveries, to how to play the violin, are information that can be attained in a snap. Or more accurately, in a "click".

The dynamism is there, but is yet wild, raw, undirected. What lacks is an encompassing structure. This structure should be able to formally rate and acknowledge learning credentials of all citizens. But more importantly, it should be effective in disseminating access to a learning system that is reachable by all.

The key lies in creating a framework that removes the disparity between learning and schooling. The educational crisis we face can be best

understood by scrutinizing not just the way schools teach, but also the way students learn. And the reality that we are all learners but then also teachers in our own lives should show us how we can bridge this gap.



Above political mantras demanding educational reform, we need to recognize that the changes we seek may already be here. In fact, the technological, social and economic changes we have been seeing are cascading upon us so rapidly, we need to adapt. Our biggest mistake, perhaps, is frustrating these changes in our attempts to fit them into pre-existing systems.

We're not going so far as to join anti-establishment radicals in their statement that "old school is dead". But we are also not simply saying that schools should just "tech up" and modernize individually. We will not be presenting graphs to prove intellectual weaning nor show the gargantuan problem of infrastructure and enumerate how many teachers, classrooms, tables and chairs are lacking.



What iEDEX promotes is the exercise to band together and consciously shape the future of mass education. Our vision is predicated on a renewed understanding of human learning in contrast to the mass educational system we have today. So it is more of a movement calling for a re-vision, than a vision. Our hope is to come up with a framework, together, spanning disciplines that encompasses even those what we learn outside the classroom.

The world has changed and is still changing rapidly. And what is evolving is a new way of learning where education is becoming more interconnected to be confined to schools alone. We need to pick up the pace in acknowledging that whatever people learn apart from schools is also education, and in no lesser degree.

In closing, we would like to emphasize that mass education should be more than its textbook definition—of organizing various knowledge into fixed scholarly disciplines and then systematically imparting these to students on a vast scale. It should transcend that to achieve its purest meaning. Mass education must be available to all. And it can only be available to all, if we also make it available FROM ALL, whether we like it or not, including students, and even those unenrolled, in the farthest corners of the country, who should learn, but who can also teach us, and from whom we can definitely learn what conventional school cannot provide.

For mass education to genuinely manifest in a society, that society must first uphold, as its ideals, human freedom and God-given rights. The clue lies in truly understanding why the rights to education and information, the rights to expression and assembly, are all basic human rights.

*For more information on iEDEX (Information & Education Exchange), please contact the Secretariat at Mobile Nos. (0919)666-1612.*

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