

**PHILIPPINE BUSINESS FOR EDUCATION CALLS ON THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO QUALITY K+12 BASIC EDUCATION FOR ALL (STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

**Philippine Business for Education (PBE)** welcomes government's strong resolve to finally put in place a decades old proposal for a K+12 basic education cycle. Included in President Aquino's 10 points for basic education agenda and prioritized by Sec Armin Luistro of the Department of Education, the K+12 proposal is finally moving forward as various stakeholders have been brought into a serious consultation process aiming to develop a model for implementation that will bring the least disruption with the most benefit to the education system.

**PBE** reiterates that the additional years in basic education cannot be separated from the issue of poor quality of the education system. Forcing into 10 years a curriculum that is learned by the rest of the world in 12 has resulted in poor performance by our students. This, over and above the poor quality and lack of teachers, textbooks and workbooks and facilities, continues to make learning a growing challenge for more and more of our students.

**PBE** believes that making kinder and an additional two years available to all in the public basic education system is another pro-poor and poverty-combating initiative of the Aquino Government. K+12 gives to the masses the extra years of schooling that for many years has only been available in private elite education institutions. Studies have shown that every additional year of schooling improves the income potential of a student as she/he enters the world of work.

**PBE** calls on the various education sector stakeholders to rally around the K+12 effort. It shall be no easy task and it shall most certainly make the necessary reforms even more complex, requiring even larger investments. However, K+12 coupled with other systemwide reforms like those under the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA) are essential if we want our children to learn to learn and learn to achieve. Certainly, with K+12, business shall be able to open its doors to hiring high school graduates as is the practice in almost all other countries in the rest of the world. Consequently, K+12 also further opens up doors to global opportunities for our young Filipinos. We also call on the members of the legislature to support this program, to be guided by a real concern with what is best for our youth rather than what is merely popular.

**Those who insist on throwing obstacles in the way of K+12 are condemning our kids to poverty and sabotaging their opportunities for a better life.**