A COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

by:
Lorena Q. Frondozo
Teacher III, San Ramon Elementary School

Do you take this man/woman as your wedded husband/wedded wife? Do you promise to love him/her, comfort him/her, honor and keep him/her for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful only to him/her, for as long as you both shall live? -“I do.”

An excerpt taken in the traditional wedding ceremony is very similar to the commitment in service that public servants should offer to the public. The “I do” of the public officials and employees exists once they enter the world of public service. Whatever the situations may be, the commitment in serving the people should always be the top priority to gain public trust.

There are various means where we can show commitment to the public interest depending on the job that we are in. As part of the public service, teachers are also bound to commit their “I do’s” in performing their enormous duties and responsibilities in delivering quality education.

Elliot and Crosswell (2001) stated that teaching is complex and demanding work and there is a daily need for teachers to fully engage in that work with not only their heads, but also their hearts. Therefore, commitment to teaching is not just about the full engagement of the mind but also the connection of the heart in teaching the learners. The accomplishment of the students is a fulfillment for a teacher. This keeps one’s fervency to input heart in everything a teacher does in the classroom. The fact that an educator can construct or destruct the lives of the students, serves as a reminder that the role of a
A teacher is not just a profession but a commitment to make a difference in the lives of the children and the world as well.

According to the article of Simon (2011), “These are the Days”, what we do in the public service is a noble work, work with dignity and work with integrity. What we do requires that we remember that serving others, and putting their needs above our own, is always the true commitment. To withstand the passion or love for work would mean sustaining commitment to the profession beyond any worth of money. A committed teacher does not count the limit of time spent in school in carrying out his task. It is imperative for him to be in the classroom, prepared and ready to teach the students prior to the start of the school day. In order for the students to learn, they must continue learning through helping oneself in achieving professional growth and being open to change as to what modern technology has to offer also plays a vital role. Hansen (2001) writes: “A teacher who really ‘knows and believes’ that teaching is worthwhile will likely conduct him-or herself differently from a teacher who has lost faith in the endeavor or who resorts to expediency in the face of challenge.”

The possible contribution of a committed teacher also is to be actively involved in any programs and projects of the school to make sure that the fund being generated is not diverted to other purposes. Since the financial aspect is the lifeblood of any organization, it is necessary to protect it against wrong disbursement of some corrupt public officials and employees. If there is any inconsistencies exist in the school that one teacher is working and it is beyond to what is legal and right, he should take the lead to correct what is wrong in the system in a proper and peaceful manner. Teacher should always bear in mind that taking no steps at all would mean that he is an accomplice to the improper system being implemented and he can be charged as more sinful than the doer of the wrong acts.
Being committed to the public service doesn’t come in a glimpse. This should be
guided by the learnings we can acquired through spending time to read the code of ethics
and some laws being implemented by the government. Serving with a happy heart shows
commitment. This can make us famous in the eyes of the people we serve. Let us always
remind ourselves that we do our work not just for those people but also for the approval
and applause of the Lord.

The avenue towards quality education is not an easy task but it can be possible if
many committed teachers will serve as an instrument in leading the proper path.

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