DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE CLASSROOM TEACHER

IMELDA ESTRELLA S. DIZON
Teacher I
Balon Elementary School

The classroom teachers, the largest group in our bureaucracy is also the richest source of manpower skills that build up the nation’s strength, the backbone and superstructure that supports the broad base of paralegal framework of our educational system but, needless to say the benefits they derive from the government compared to other smaller departments leaves much, much to be desired.

One case in point is the lopsided allocation of travel expense voucher (TEV). While employees in other departments enjoy such fringe benefits as per diem to take care of the registration fee, meals, transportation expenses, snacks, and billeting expenses when attending seminars outside their station assignments, teachers are deprived of these basic necessities. When attending seminars, teachers dig deep into their pockets to pay the registration expenses, meals, snacks, borrowing money here and there and ending up mortgaging their pay before the first quarter of the month is over.

In other departments of our benighted bureaucracy, employees report to their offices with only their bare hands and minds as tools in disposing of their daily outputs. More often than not they lounge on their seats, read newspapers, and indulge in gossip digging at other people’s lives and ending the day almost nary a thing accomplished.

Teachers on the other hand go to school with the day’s lesson tucked under their arms. They have less time for indulgences such as nitpicking while inside the classroom and most of the time they are kept standing while imparting the essence of growth and development of their charges. The night before, they wrestle with the mind-boggling computation of the previous day’s test results, write lesson plans, cram to wrap up the endless household chores, and unlikely stealing a short time for love making. When they do so, they are as arid as the Sahara Desert and trance like Rip Van Winkle.

Classroom teachers do not just inculcate the 3R’s. Their initiation does not end at 5 o’clock in the afternoon. Sometimes they visit homes of school pupils who are the lost lambs in the flock, confer with the parents on the problems of the home-room PTA, attend conferences
and organize Boy Scout troops and athletics teams, confer with barangay officials, act as members of election board canvassers, and are sometimes accused of cheating by losing candidates. They act as collectors of authorized fund drives and required to reimburse the unpaid contributions of school pupils by their school principals.

“No that you are in threshold of the noblest of all profession, you should not expect a noble pay but work hard in a noble way no matter how hard the task before you because the reward you will get is not from here but from the hereafter.”

