HEROES BUT VICTIMS TOO

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The coronavirus pandemic has brought dire challenges to the Philippines. Not only did it wreak havoc to the economic and health sectors, but also took a solid hit to the education sector. With the entire country in total lockdown, the Department of Education has decided to shift from face-to-face classes to distance learning in September 2020, amid calls for academic freeze as the country faces one of its toughest enemies in recent years.

While some found the current learning setup a convenience -studying at the comforts of their homes- it was a different story for other students and teachers.

The story of Moises Palomo,a teacher from Tandag City, Surigao Del Sur, went viral last year for her dedication to deliver self-learning modules to her students living in remote areas. According to reports, the teacher had to wake up at 05:00 in the morning to prepare the learning materials. The passionate teacher earned the praises of netizens as she was seen swimming a river while holding the modules in a viral photo. Meanwhile in Batangas City, elementary teachers had to climb the rooftop due to weak mobile data signals.

One thing is for sure: teachers will go along the way just to help their students and provide them the right foundation for their future. But these viral stories should not be seen as heroic stunts of our embattled educators. This should be a wake-up call for those who are in charge to improve our education system because teachers and students do not deserve to be in those awful situations. Let us stop romanticizing these kinds of struggles and instead demand urgent solutions to alleviate the harsh realities they are facing.

Teachers are heroes. But sometimes, they are victims too.
References:

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