“If you want the best mind to teach, give them the best salary”. Indeed, teaching is the noblest profession that deserves a good compensation. Teachers are teaching with dedication and passion but they are receiving low remunerations. Teachers in other parts of the world receive high professional fees. In the United States, the average American teacher takes a starting salary amounting to $39,000 and $67,000 for experienced teacher, a year.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) presented data on the best and worst teachers’ salary. The best paid high school teachers belong to Luxembourg, one of the richest countries in the world that offers $138K for high school experienced teachers, Switzerland allots $109K, Germany sets $92K, Netherlands, Austria and Korea give $84K and US offers $71K. Teachers who get worst-paid salaries come from countries like Lithuania, $20K; Slovak Republic $22K; and Czech Republic, $25K annually. In comparison, a new teacher or Teacher I in the Philippines receives P20,754, more or less P249,048.00 a year, or equivalent to more or less $4980 in a year. It only means to say that teachers in the Philippines are really underpaid.

Recently, during the 4th State of the Nation Address (SONA), teachers felt their innermost joy when President Rodrigo Duterte announced to give additional compensation to teachers. He urged the Congress to pass a new salary standardization law to increase the salary of government employees, including the public-school teachers. He uttered in his speech that teachers are tirelessly working to educate the young; thus, he promised to
give what the teachers are asking for. “Hindi masyadong malaki but it will tide you over”, said the President.

However, Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) Philippines would like to observe the statement made by the President about “a lit bit bigger than before”. This made the ACT Treasurer, Vladimer Queta to mention that there was an unpalatable wage increase plan on the salary of teachers and he just stated “huwag ninyong baratin ang salary increase namin”.

It is a fact that it is a personal issue on teachers about the amount of salary that they are receiving each month. Teachers’ take-home pay both for married and single are insufficient for their daily needs. Despite that, teachers’ passion and eagerness still blaze up as they focus much on students’ benefits, not to mention abundant reports and evidences that will measure his/her worth as a teacher, and as a proof for RPMS evaluation; and the everyday lesson log and instructional materials to do before facing the class. These are just few from the plenty of reasons to receive salary increase.

The news uttered by the President makes the teachers feel appreciated. As they are waiting for it, the passion they have for teaching sparks to serve the students and the nation ---as the fire inside their soul ignites and the willingness to serve continues to soar high as the tower in Paris.

References:


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