REVISITING DRESS CODE

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In this modern time when most people go with the flow of this fast-changing world, nobody wants to be left behind dwelling in the shadows of the medieval era. Even in the field of education, everybody and everything must agree with the modern-day setting to fully realize the DepEd vision of "continuously improving itself to better serve its stakeholders".

But can this premise fairly justify the "overly" modernized behavior and personality of the present breed of educators in our country? Does it follow that because we live in a modern world, even the educators could freely wear anything they feel like wearing for the reason of self-expression?

Lest we forget, the Civil Service Commission, in line with the provisions of RA 6713 (The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees), has issued Memorandum Circular No. 14, series of 1991 with the "Dress Code Prescribed for All Government Officials and Employees" as its subject.

As an addendum and to give clarity to certain points in the aforesaid issuance, the Commission further issued MC No. 25, s. 1991 which addresses the wearing of denim and T-shirts specifically found in paragraph 1 which states that the wearing of denim pants among male employees is allowed provided that the same is worn with collared T-shirts. It is further stated in the next paragraph that the wearing of denim among female employees is allowed only on instances when the employees are regularly performing their duties and functions in the field. In other words, female workers are not allowed to wear denim.
However, in MC No. 19, s. 2000, the Dress Code has again undergone revision to pave the way for the institutionalization of the wearing of Filipiniana attire during Mondays and to the Gender Advocacy Program of the Civil Service Commission.

By these, therefore, all educators must bear in mind that we are bound by certain rules and regulations. Even when it comes to issues of individuality and personality, we must always remember that as long as we are part of the public educational institution which is, as mandated by the Constitution, governed by the Civil Service Commission, we do not have the absolute freedom to wear anything we want when performing our duties within the workplace, not even for the sake of the so-called "self-expression". Why? Simply for the main reason that we, teachers, should be the ones to exemplify the modesty and decency of the teaching profession.

References:

- R.A. 6713 (lawphil.net)
- CSC MC 19, s. 2000: Revised Dress Code Prescribed for All Government Officials and Employees in the Workplace · CIVIL SERVICE GUIDE: A Compilation of Issuances on Philippine Civil Service (csguide.org)