THE NOBLEST PROFESSION UNDERPAID?

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Teacher, as it is said by many, is the noblest profession. Teachers all over the world are respected because of their personal qualities that people have a high regard for. They function inside the classroom not just as teachers but also as parents and even friends at times. As they deal with their students’ academic performances, they also pay special attention to them like they are their own.

In the Philippines, most of the teachers are affectionate towards their students. Aside from their workload as teachers, they do extra things for them solely out of concern and passion. They provide them with wisdom that will help them as they develop to be lifelong learners, as well as advice that will guide them all throughout their journey.

Filipino teachers’ workload is heavy. They have tons of school forms awaiting on their tables that they have to duly finish before the set deadlines, or at least before the school year is over. These papers unfairly require them to spend more time at school over the allotted eight hours of working. Most of the times, their work is extended to their homes. All of these they have to do while preparing for their daily lessons. And yet, they are not paid for their overtime service. Visibly, this situation is not fair.

On the other page of the subject, DEPED (Department of Education) has no way of monitoring if teachers are really doing paperwork when they stay overtime at school. Teachers hold their time at work, especially their office hours. They can decide whether to do it at school or at home. Hence, it is understandable that DEPED is not fully convinced to implement overtime pay when they don’t have strong ground for it.

Up to date, a public school teacher’s starting salary in the Philippines is P20,754.

It has been a long time since teachers are complaining that they are underpaid professionals. This is because they have a lot of workload on their shoulders. Despite of not being
paid for their overtime service, they still do these papers and submit on the said date. This just shows that Filipino teachers are still dedicated and responsible in their sworn profession.

This leaves some to wonder, how much more productive Filipino teachers will be if they are receiving extra pay for their service, or better, a pay hike?

References: