

## AN INVESTMENT TO VALUE

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There were an estimated 880,000 public school teachers and over 27.7 million students for the school year 2018 to 2019 as stated on Inquirer.Net. These numbers only suggest that public education represents the country's largest investment, for a good reason. Schools have always been highly regarded as a critical component to the success of our national economy. Public schools are believed to provide accessible, equitable and quality education to the general population. They are expected to provide foundational knowledge and skills necessary for productive and responsible citizenry. The whole system of education is a mechanism designed to foster individual social and economic mobility. It is purposely intended so as to prepare the future leaders and citizens that will make critical decisions essential to the progress of the country.

At the very heart of this system is a force of almost a million teachers. These people are the ones who design the lessons, deliver instructions, assess learning, and work in collaboration with colleagues, school leaders, and parents. It is very interesting to note that the teaching profession is one which can be associated with many jobs. Teachers are called mothers or janitors or caretakers or carpenters. Sometimes, teachers would become doctors, or nurses or they can be gardeners or the police or the guidance counselor. Ultimately, the teachers are charged with the task of achieving the goals of the system. It is amazing to note that one humble profession could mean so much and how much is being expected of these simple workers.

However, teachers tire.

They, at times, would feel the heavy burden as they drag their pens into making lessons. They will find difficulty pronouncing a single word due to the swelling of their throats

from the whole day's attempt to reach their students' ears. They will struggle to move across the hall as their feet are clamped with unhealthy relationships and unfriendly competition. Sometimes, they will lose control of the curriculum assigned to them rendering them helpless in the pursuit to find means to affect learning. Similarly frustrating is that teachers would always find themselves looking for means to live within their own slips. In the midst of all these, it would take great effort for a teacher to release his or her mind from work and focus on his or her own life.

It is very disheartening to read comments of dissatisfaction among teachers in almost all social networking sites or in the socio-internet pages, when in fact these educators are only bursting their hardships on doing their school duties that are beyond the definition of their profession (Borowski, 2014). One of the most pressing concerns among educators is how to fairly compensate individuals working in the field of education. We can't, of course. Money is scarce and will become scarcer in the future. A first-grade teacher's salary will never be equivalent to that of a professional athlete. It is true that teachers are not in it for the money or the recognition. They choose to teach because they sincerely care about children and want to make a difference in the world. Yet now, they are losing hearts in their own respective battles.

Teacher morale is low, and this is because the system continues to overlook the worth of its investment. Teachers are not only employees who follow the orders of their superiors. Teachers should be respected. In this regard, the government must ensure to have a support teacher resilience, instructional and technological to ensure teacher's effectiveness and opportunities for long -run improvement. Teachers' employment and compensation must be guarded so that a motivated workforce is obtainable. It's also necessary to strengthen teacher intrinsic motivation and improve the overall health. Teachers also require assistance with professional development in order to provide effective remedial education.

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