

EO174: CAREER PROGRESSION AND A BETTER HOPE FOR FILIPINO TEACHERS

by:

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It was a jubilant year for public school teachers when Executive Order 170 was signed by then-President Rodrigo Duterte on June 23, 2022, days before the end of his term. The EO which is named “Establishing the Expanded Career Progression System for Public School Teachers” has expanded the teaching positions from Teacher 1 to 3 up to Teacher 7, and up to Master Teacher 5 while the school administration career line will be from School Principal 1, School Principal 2, School Principal 3 and School Principal 4 (Department of Education, 2022). The EO ensures that promotion will be merit-based and that career progression and career opportunities will now be wider for public school teachers in elementary and high school.

This is a welcome development and thousands of our teachers have been waiting for this for decades. While many say that this has been long overdue, now our teachers have a better opportunity for career growth. Career advancement for educators has long been a top priority since they form the backbone of every school and are essential to its success. Teachers' ability to make a difference in students' progress depends on their own ongoing professional development.

The fight for teachers' rights and welfare continues, especially on the upgrading of teachers' salaries. Salary hike has been the demand of major teacher organizations such as the Teachers Dignity Coalition (TDC) and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT). According to top leaders of these teacher organizations, there is no better substitute for a teacher's salary hike (Philippine Star, 2022).

On the other hand, this EO174 is a big leap forward in giving our teachers better opportunities for their professional and economic development. While waiting for its full implementation in the coming years, public school teachers should continue pursuing quality teaching and learning services among their pupils. In the meantime, let us all hold hands together to push for greater state subsidies on teachers' compensation. While many say that the future depends on us, we also depend on our leaders to elevate teachers' dignity as the noblest profession.

References:

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