

RECTIFYING TEACHER SHORTAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES

by:

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The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) disputed the statement of Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte on increasing the wage of both the public and private sectors which are “underpaid” and looking for new employment opportunities abroad. The Philippines is experiencing a teacher shortage because most of us choose to find a greener pasture overseas than stay in a noble profession with low compensation.

How do we prevent the drastic number of migrating teachers from going abroad just to have a decent and greener life for their families? Is it a brain drain problem? This issue has been a long time coming, and in many ways it's not shocking. If the stresses of teaching during COVID-19 were not enough, teachers have also been required to work in unconducive classrooms, without mask mandates during COVID waves, and in other hazardous conditions. They say they are frequently clichéd, poorly paid, overloaded with tasks and paper works and many feel deeply disrespected. Educators go abroad to work as domestic workers or in other professions and careers that do not ensemble their educational accomplishments. This is due to the circumstance that the wage offer is way more tempting than what they receive here as a teacher, not to mention the privilege and benefits that await them overseas.

One of the effective ways, I think, to stop other teachers to work abroad is to immediately rectify and approve all pending bills that will benefit our fellow educators both in private and public. This salary increase will also transform people's insight of public-school teachers from just government workforces to public servants and co-

formators of a nation of people with ethical veracity. It's a paying acknowledgment of their imperative contribution to cultivating the youth and offering them decent and well-provided pay equal to the sacrifices they make in educating our young generation.

References:

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/why-teacher-shortage-in-us>

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