

**TEACHER’S ARM: MAGNA CARTA FOR  
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS**  
**Maria Leonora E. Pantig – Teacher III**  
Balanga Elementary School

*“Be proud you are a teacher because the future depends on you.”*

As a teacher myself, it is a great morale booster to read quotations that see the value of teachers. In a country where teachers are taken for granted, it is inspiring to know that there are still people who regard the profession as an invaluable part of society’s transformation.

Teachers play vital roles in the lives of the learners in their classrooms. They are best known for the role of educating the students who are placed under their care. Above and beyond that noble mission, teachers also perform other duties and responsibilities in and outside the school. Teachers set the tone of their classrooms, inspire and motivate students, make dreams happen, contribute to economic growth and development and make a societal transformation.

The responsibility of molding the minds and values of the Filipino youth makes our public school teachers precious and invaluable to our society. Moreover, public school teachers, as civil servants, wholeheartedly dedicate their time and effort to assisting both the local and national governments, taking a more responsive role in governance participation.

As such, Republic Act No. 4670 otherwise known as “The Magna Carta for Public School Teachers” was passed into law in view of providing professional rights and safeguards to our public school teachers in consideration of the exigency and level of difficulty of the exercise of their profession. However, the said law which was signed on June 18, 1966, remains untouched for more than half a century now which may exhibit weaknesses that hamper the improvement of the social and economic status and working conditions of our public school teachers. The need for modifications and amendments to strengthen the law is in order.

A teacher is defined in this act as “all persons engaged in teaching basic education in public schools and all other persons performing supervisory functions in all public schools in basic education, specifically: department heads, assistant school heads, school heads, district,

division, and regional supervisors, assistant schools division superintendent, schools division superintendents, assistant regional directors, regional directors and bureau/service/center directors.

It is the vision of the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers to provide programs for the promotion and improvement of the social well-being and economic status of public school teachers, including their living and working conditions, terms of employment, and career prospects. However, it seems that lethargy bordering on official neglect has beset the implementation of the said statute thus setting at naught whatever lofty aims the legislature has envisioned in ordaining the said Magna Carta.

Even on the assumption that public school teachers shall henceforth be enjoying the effects of the beneficent provisions of the Magna Carta, this law goes up a step further by providing additional benefits and privileges in the form of more liberal study leaves, educational grants to children of teachers, and more comprehensive special hardship allowances.

It is hoped that these additional benefits and privileges will make certain that public school teachers will receive their due and be placed in a place befitting their roles as educators of our youth.

And in view of the certain provisions, House Bill No. 8384 or An Act Strengthening and Expanding the Professional Rights and Work Incentives of Public School Teachers, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 4670, to be known as the Expanded Magna Carta for Public School teachers, and for other purposes. This bill seeks to amend the aforementioned law to make the said measure more responsive by expanding public school teachers working rights, strengthening working protections and safeguards, and providing additional incentives for extra-curricular work.

“Be proud you are a teacher because the future depends on you.”

Teachers are the backbones of society. They move the community in the directions directed by the government. And to perform a such noble duty, they also need to be interminably protected and professionally armed.

**References:**

**Magna Carta for Public School Teachers** from [www.sunstar.com.ph](http://www.sunstar.com.ph)

**Magna Carta for Public School Teachers** from [www.senate.gov.ph](http://www.senate.gov.ph)

**Role of Teachers in a Classroom** from [www.education.gov.ph](http://www.education.gov.ph)