

## INVESTING IN TEACHERS: A COMMITMENT TO BETTER SALARIES, BENEFITS, AND THE NATION'S FUTURE.

*by:*

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The entire world efficiently functions because there are teachers who teach them how to, and professionals who pursue the path of parting their knowledge rather than applying it. No government official at both the national and local levels has attained and exercised their leadership skills if not for the avenue given to them by their teachers and the schools as a whole. All world leaders owe their capability to a teacher. Businesses, from public services to private domains, were built from the foundation that there were teachers who educated both employers and employees into functioning as to how they move now.

However, with all these might and the right to live a comfortable life, teachers remain underappreciated and under-compensated. The backbone of the country's development aches as it receives little priority in terms of funding. Budget allocations had long overlooked that for teachers to readily impart their knowledge, they must be in a holistic capacity.

Rufus Rodriguez, a lawmaker who proposed a tax exemption grant to public school teachers claimed, "The lowest-paid government workers despite the importance of their work."

To add salt to the wound, teaching equipment, classroom materials, clothing, food, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses are often shouldered by educators since there is little to no financial support to cover them. We can see teachers asking parents for material donations such as chalk and cleaning supplies, and even opening up a donation

drive to fund their back-to-school programs. Most of the time, when even the students are destitute, public school teachers use money from their savings to provide textbooks and other materials such as notebooks and pencils.

The benefits of increasing teachers' salaries and providing incentives is not limited to the advantage of the educators themselves, for these directly impact the students and the education quality they receive. When teachers are fairly compensated, the major cause for distraction and fatigue – economic vulnerability – can dissipate. They are less likely to take on secondary jobs to make ends meet and can focus more on their primary role of educating students. This absence of distraction translates into more effective teaching, accurate lesson plans, and a better learning environment for students. Lastly, increased salaries and added incentives can be used to attract more qualified individuals to the teaching profession, which can in turn raise the overall standard of education.

In conclusion, teachers are the key to learners learning and development.

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