

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lapus urges House to pass bill giving additional pay for teachers

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus today urged Congress to pass into law a bill that gives additional compensation to public school teachers.

“DepEd gives its full support for the approval of the House Bill 4734 and Senate Bill 2408 because we have always been cognizant of the need to improve the lot of our teachers,” Lapus said.

Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya said that under instructions of Lapus, the Department has been lobbying in both houses of Congress for the approval of the bill which has already passed second reading in the Senate. Under the bill, teachers will get an additional pay of P9,000 to be paid in full within three years at P3,000 increase per year. The total increase will make teachers’ pay at par with those received by soldiers and policemen.

DepEd recently ordered the release of funds from the DepEd 2007 NCR savings for the payment of the much-awaited 1999 “over-and-above” allowances of NCR public school teachers. The initial release of P77.8 million allowed the immediate payment of some P500 million in unpaid benefits. This benefits some 10,000 teachers in eleven NCR cities with some eligible teachers getting as much as P60,000 each.

Just after the opening of classes last June, DepEd released guidelines on the reduced classroom hours of teachers. This implements the Civil Service Commission ruling that allows teachers 6 hours of actual classroom teaching instead of the usual 8 hours.

When Lapus assumed office at DepEd in 2006 he immediately worked for the updating of teachers’ service records (SR). For years, teachers complained of unauthorized deductions in their contributions with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) because of discrepancies in the records of DepEd and GSIS. Today only 6.6 % of the SRs remain to be encoded and submitted to GSIS.

Last year, DepEd also paid some P1.7 billion in arrears representing government shares in GSIS contribution. The arrears were a result of the increase in GSIS premium from 9.5% to 12% for the period of July 1997 to December 1998.

Another P862 million was released to cover employees’ compensation insurance premium adjustments when the GSIS increased the premium from P30 to P100.

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DepEd also released P400 million last year to partially settle unpaid loyalty pays, step increments and other entitlements of DepEd personnel especially teachers. This is in addition to the P388 million released to cover PhilHealth premium adjustments because of the increase in premium from P100 to P112.

In November 2007, DepEd signed a memorandum of agreement with Gawad Kalinga, Pag-Ibig Fund, and some pioneering local government units to undertake an affordable housing program for its more than 90,000 teachers who do not have a home of their own.

“Teachers’ welfare and benefits are tops in our priority,” Lapus reiterated.

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