

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 22, 2008

Lapus confident law on add'l teachers' salary will be passed soon

A proposed legislation which seeks to add P9,000 more over the next three years to the present monthly compensation of public school teachers and non-teaching personnel may be passed into law soon after the House leadership assured the immediate passage of the bill.

"Speaker Prospero Nograles and incoming House Appropriation Committee Chairman Junie Cua are well aware of the urgency of the measure and have committed to calendar the bill next week," Department of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus disclosed.

The Committee on Basic Education, chaired by Rep. Del de Guzman had earlier approved the measure.

Lapus added: "We are hopeful that with the full support of the members of the House and the able shepherding of the House leaders, the bill can be enacted into law as soon as possible."

At present, public school teachers receive at least P12,000 in monthly basic salary (up from P9,000 in 2006) and P2,500 additional compensation and personal economic allowances. Recently, DepEd has released guidelines to implement the Civil Service Commission ruling which allow teachers 6-hours a day of actual classroom teaching.

The House Committee on Basic Education has proposed that the necessary funds for the proposed increase in teachers' pay will be sourced from the government's expanded value added tax collection on petroleum products.

Lapus has been actively lobbying for the passage of House Bill No. 4734 and its counterpart Senate Bill No. 2408 giving additional compensation to public school teachers. The Senate has already passed on 3rd Reading its version authored by Senators Alan Peter Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Eduardo Angara, and Ramon Revilla. The Senate version of the bill has been transmitted to the House of Representatives.

"We believe that the enactment into law of this bill will greatly improve the lot of our hardworking teachers and will directly impact the quality of education in the country," Lapus said.

PRESS RELEASE

Under the bill, teachers and education personnel will get an additional pay of P9,000 per month to be paid in full within three years at P3,000 per month increase each year. The total increase will make teachers' pay at par with those received by uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police.

Lapus is hopeful the bill can be signed into law before Congress goes on recess on October 11, 2008.

END

PRESS RELEASE