

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd backs teachers' salary adjustment

The Department of Education (DepEd) supports the immediate release of the adjusted salary of teachers that would further assure the upgrading of the quality of education in public schools.

DepEd Secretary Mona Valisno said that she will present to the next administration a set of urgent concerns top among which is the salary adjustment of teachers.

"I will be former secretary by July 1. But the team at DepEd will bridge with President Noynoy our concerns as he committed that education will be a priority in his administration," said Valisno.

An association of public school teachers nationwide pressed DepEd early this week for the prompt implementation of the salary adjustment of teachers under the Salary Standardization Law III (SSL3) approved by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in June last year.

Valisno said DepEd will make representations with teachers on SSL III through DepEd's agency transition officials. These include Usec. Franklin Sunga, Undersecretary for Legal Affairs; USec. Manaros B. Bonansing, Undersecretary for Finance; and ASec. Jonathan Malaya, Assistant Secretary for Special Projects and Legislative Affairs.

The teachers are apprehensive that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will not be on time again in releasing the salary increases and Secretary Valisno promised said DepEd will support teachers in their call for its immediate release. The teachers expected the adjustments to have taken effect on January 1, 2010 since budget planning is in calendar years.

"These salary increases are already embodied in the law. We'll be happy to make representations with DBM on this for teachers," she said.

She said that teachers will then be enjoying a comfortable starting salary of more than P20,000 from P16,000 while master teachers will have a salary of P33,000 from P26,000 given the salary adjustments. She further assured teachers that DepEd will continue to push for incentives that should be given to teachers with outstanding performance. However, she warned these increases should be justified with corresponding commitment on the part of the teachers.

On another concern, DepEd was asked to probe on the existence of a policy stating that teachers may register for a professional teaching license only once and this license is valid for a lifetime. This means they no longer need to renew their license each time and save on renewal fees and time spent on registering.

Moreover, DepEd has expressed to support bills filed by Senator Edgardo J. Angara which further assure protection of teachers' welfare, particularly their just and fair compensation. **END**

PRESS RELEASE