

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd's Needy Utility Returns P150K

What will you do if you accidentally stumble upon a wad of money worth P150 thousand in a garbage box? Keep it to yourself as a "finder's keeper" reward?

Not so for 37-year old Noli Betsayda who has been working as a contractual utility at the Department of Education Central Office in Pasig City for the past nine years now.

Finding a bundle of P500 bills worth P150 thousand in the garbage box of DepEd's Staff Development Division office at around 5:30 p.m. last April 30, 2008 did nothing to shake his moral sense of returning it to its rightful owner.

"Hindi po talaga nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na pumasok ang demonyo sa utak ko. Simple lang po yun. Hindi akin yung pera na yun. Dapat lang na isauli sa may-ari," quips Noli.

But life is not that simple or that easy for Noli who has a 71-year old mother who needs a cataract-eye operation and a brother who is suffering from an acute ulcer ailment.

It is precisely within this context that Noli's honest act of returning the money to Ms. Lumen Afable, a DepEd supplier, truly heroic.

In recognition for his good deed, Noli received a Certificate of Commendation and a P5,000 cash gift from DepEd Secretary Jesli A. Lapus "in recognition of his exemplary honesty worthy of emulation for everyone."

"Ano mang kabutihan ang nagawa ko ay kabutihang nagawa din ng buong DepEd sa kapwa Filipino," concludes Betsayda.

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