

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd, partners to protect teachers for the Oct. 25 polls

Recognizing the risks public school teachers face in the course of performing their election duties the Department of Education has entered into an agreement with electoral partners to ensure the protection of teachers.

As teachers are again called to man the polls for the synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on October 25, the Department of Education has reiterated its commitment to protect teachers' welfare and safety by entering into agreements with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"I extend my deep appreciation to COMELEC, IBP, and PNP for partnering with the department to reassure our teachers that we will help them protect the integrity of the elections." said Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC.

DepEd agreed with COMELEC to formalize the honoraria and allowances of teachers and other DepEd personnel who will serve in the elections as chairmen and members of the board of election tellers (BETs).

For the October 25 elections, teachers who will man the polls will receive P2,000 as honorarium plus an additional honorarium of P500 for those handling SK precincts.

"We are confident that all concerned parties will exert full effort to ensure that our teachers are safe, free from harassment and properly and promptly compensated," Luistro added.

On the other hand, IBP committed its support by providing free legal assistance and services to teachers serving as chairmen and members of the different BETs who will be unduly charged in the performance of their election-related duties.

PNP has pledged to provide security to polling places, the members of the different BETs and the voters to ensure the holding of an honest, orderly, and peaceful election.

DepEd is mandated by law to make available the services of public school teachers during election which also exposes them to a deeply partisan Philippine politics. There have been incidents in the past elections where teachers were wrongfully accused, threatened and even killed.

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