

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd leads the nation in thanking teachers

To culminate the Teachers' Month Campaign, the Department of Education (DepEd) lead the grand celebration of World Teachers' Day today, October 5, as designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

"We applaud the move to honor our teachers by dedicating one day each year to teachers and the nobility of purpose and profession that they all stand for. World Teachers' Day is an opportune time for us to make our teachers feel that they are loved and appreciated. With this celebration, we show them that we value how they have long been the backbone of every society," said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

One of the highlights of the nationwide celebration is the simultaneous prayer for teachers at 10:05AM. At the PhilSports Arena, seven year-old Cris 'Kez' Valdez, a member of the Dynamic Teen Company, was at the forefront of this tribute by leading the national prayer in front of his live audience composed mainly of teachers.

No less than the President, Benigno S. Aquino III, joined the celebration for teachers. In his speech, the President paid a tribute to teachers and assured them of his commitment to work towards improving the quality of education alongside national development. Also present was Presidential Management Staff Secretary Julia Abad.

Inspired by the celebration's theme, "*My Teacher, My Hero*," Luistro explained how our teachers are heroes saying, "teachers are most influential when they touch hearts at the same time that they teach minds; when they show kindness to a discouraged student; when they inspire a person to expand and think of possibilities 'out there,' to be bigger than themselves and the environment they grew up in."

Part of giving recognition to the teaching profession, the department wants to further improve career opportunities for teachers.

"The power of DepEd is to strive mightily to support the educational efforts of our teachers. This is why we continue to draft policy directions that will further improve teacher working conditions, promote teacher wellness, continuously upgrade the quality of teaching and learning, support the continuing capacity- building of teachers, and push for the legislation of the revised Magna Carta for Teachers. We will continue to promote accountability among our teachers and encourage them to organize themselves into forming professional learning communities in support of improving student learning approaches," stressed Luistro.

As the country joins the whole world in honoring the teachers and the teaching profession today, the department reiterates that we should always value and thank our teachers for dedicating their lives in molding young minds.

"Thank you teachers for unfolding the full potential of the youth. We will work hand in hand with you. Since we expect you to provide the best teaching possible to uplift

the Filipino youth, it is but right that we also give you the resource support you need,” said Luistro as he saluted the teachers.

END

PRESS RELEASE