

## **IT'S NOT EASY**

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What I do right now as a profession in my career was something I dreamed of as early as I was in high school. Belonging to a family of educators, I was taught to have the utmost respect for teachers as I idolized them for doing work beyond office hours. I got the notion that it is indeed the noblest profession for achieving the set learning goals is far more fulfilling than the monetary compensation the work provides.

Of course, the road to get here is not for the faint of heart. As all educators in the service today had to go through at least four years of tertiary school to get the much-desired diploma to be followed by a grueling licensure examinations that most people aspire to pass.

After that, some people tend to go and teach in private schools to gather experience before applying to Department of Education with hopes to earn a permanent government item.

I had to go through all that and wondered how did the teachers before me managed to do it as if they did not even break a sweat. I constantly told myself, "I still have a long way to go, but I already gone a long way."

I entered Munoz National High School- Main as a 21-year old boy who faced his first year in teaching during the pandemic. Face-to-face classes were suspended and w had to resort to a modular approach.

To go to different barangays to provide modules while wearing a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to contain the virus is an easy task. What is not is the report that comes with it.

As with every move teachers do in DepEd, a paperwork is usually waiting at the end of it. Administrative tasks are always lurking, with each event demanding an accomplishment report or else it did not happen.

I do understand why it needs to be done. Promotion is as hard as they come if there are no proof or paperworks to back it up. To stay as a normal classroom teacher will not make me earn certificates as compared to an educator who is always doing something more.

But the challenge in our beloved endeavor is this: do your work the best you can as it caters the needs of our learners, while also do extensive work which includes extracurricular activities for personal development. I understand that even though I am already a teacher, learning is a continuous process.

I then knew that being a teacher is not all about just teaching inside the four corners of the classroom. Being a teacher means being adaptable to any situations, like beating administrative tasks' deadlines, or compiling necessary requirements for being CLRAA coach, and even spending sleepless nights trying to finish the school newspaper hoping to make it in time for submission. It's all good. It's what I prepared for as early as when I was in elementary dreaming to be an educator.

Yes, being an educator will always demand more work as it tries to keep up with the changing of the times. As we always said, we are not just teachers.