

Manifesto for Teacher Quality

Teachers are invaluable to nation building. They mold engineers, doctors, agriculturists, mechanics, economists, lawyers, and leaders. As such, teacher quality is an integral part in shaping well-rounded individuals and an empowered society.

The data, however, show an alarming trend in teacher quality at the pre-service level. A recent study conducted by Philippine Business for Education (PBE_d) on the performance of teacher education institutions (TEIs) in the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) in the Philippines revealed the following:

- Only 60% of all TEIs have less than half of their teacher education students pass the LET,
- Only half of first time takers pass the exam, and
- More than 60% of the overall LET takers are repeaters and they only have a 16% chance of passing.

Among others, these appalling results suggest the following:

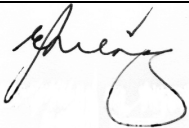
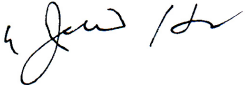

- High school students are ill-prepared when they enter teacher education programs,
- Teacher education students receive inadequate pre-service preparation in TEIs, and
- A possible disconnect on the LET questions and what is taught by TEIs.

The abovementioned problems are just some of the challenges to improving teacher quality in the Philippines. As such, we call on the Commission on Higher Education to **strictly monitor and evaluate the performance of TEIs** and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to **adopt, institute, and publish a comprehensive rating system** based on the passing ratio and overall performance of students in the LET as mandated by **Republic Act 7722** (Higher Education Act of 1994) and **Republic Act 8981** (PRC Modernization Act of 2000), respectively.

We recommend that the following reforms be implemented by the concerned agencies to address the issues above:

- 1. The release of previous LET questions by the Board of Professional Teachers:** After every exam, the Board of Professional Teachers shall release the questions as a matter of ensuring quality and transparency.
- 2. The implementation of a three-strike rule on LET takers by the PRC:** LET takers shall be limited to take the exam for only three times, after which they shall be required to take a refresher course.
- 3. The revision of the LET application form by the PRC:** Applicants shall be able to specify the school that granted their Bachelor's degree in Education or Certificate in Teaching to properly monitor and attribute the LET performances of schools.

We, the undersigned, hereby affix our signature to indicate our recommendation and support to the abovementioned reforms.

Name	Institution	Signature
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Dr. Arnulfo Aaron Reganit	Ateneo de Naga University	
Prof. Tomas Lopez	Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU)	
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