

## **“My Teacher, My Frontline Hero”**

President, Metrobank Foundation, Inc.  
Co-chairperson, NTM Coordinating Council  
National Teachers’ Month Kickoff Ceremony  
September 6, 2021



Beloved partners, led by Department of Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones;  
Commission on Higher Education;  
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;  
Partners from the NTM Coordinating Council;  
Dear teachers;

Good morning!

Today, we officially kick off the National Teachers Month celebration to honor our Filipino teachers. This is the second year that we are celebrating virtually, as we continue to navigate a new normal brought by the health crisis. Now more than ever, we firmly believe we should not defer our annual event.

The NTM Council therefore sustains the theme, “I teach for a better future,” to highlight the success of teachers in pursuing overall education objectives despite the constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This theme is likewise an ode to our educators’ dedication to ensure that no Filipino student gets left behind no matter the circumstances. Despite the challenges of implementing distance learning, our dear teachers persevered by acquiring new skills and tools, adjusting their methodologies, and going above and beyond the call of their duty to continue giving their learners a better future.

We truly have come a long way since we first celebrated National Teachers’ Month in 2008, with the theme, “My Teacher, My Hero” in the hopes of honoring educators for their commitment in guiding students to reach their full potential. We uphold this mission to this day by dedicating a month-long celebration for our unsung heroes. If you will recall, just last year, we continued to celebrate despite the lockdown with the first ever virtual NTD celebration with a total of 479,254 teachers who registered. Through Facebook, we reached more than a million people nationwide.

We in the private sector will continue to persevere and stand in solidarity with teachers nationwide, as they continue to empower learners to be the best of who they can be, for a better future.

One of the main pillars of this year’s celebration is Enhancing Teacher Quality. The NTM

Council plans to contribute to Brigada Pagbasa to improve the teaching capability of teachers in reading, which in turn will improve reading proficiency of Filipino learners. In collaboration with World Vision, Metrobank Foundation will donate risograph machines to selected schools and lead in encouraging the private sector in providing support for teacher training programs.

Moreover, an important part of honoring our teachers is recognizing their excellence and the nobility of the teaching profession. With this, I am happy to share that Metrobank Foundation has just conferred the Outstanding Filipino Award for Teachers. Thank you for inspiring all of us with your selfless contributions to the education sector and to the country, as a whole.

In conclusion, dear teachers and educators, please continue to be bearers of hope for the country. Through your noble work, our people, not just our learners, will overcome the challenges we face today. Let not discouragement disable you. We pray that you remain committed to teaching here in our country and serve our Filipino learners.

We stand together with you in this fight and we will get through this together as one nation. Again, Happy National Teachers' Month!

Maraming salamat po.