



Stepping Forward: A Call for a Progressive Leadership in DepEd marked by Quality, Equity and Opportunity for All.

As Senator Angara assumes the role of DepEd chief, we must all continue to step forward in support of a **transformative vision for education** in the Philippines.

It is crucial that Senator Angara's leadership manifests in a revitalized education system, taking actions towards addressing persisting issues of access, equity, inclusion, and quality in education. To achieve this, a collaborative approach that engages all stakeholders - from parents and learners and other community stakeholders, teaching and non-teaching personnel, administrators and policymakers, civil society organizations - is essential.

The new DepEd Secretary's first order of business should be to prioritize the needs of marginalized and out-of-school learners, striving to provide equitable access to education for everyone. This involves creating alternative learning pathways, such as distance learning or establishing community learning centers or mobile schools, to provide equitable access to education for all Filipino learners. The new Secretary should work towards addressing the backlogs within the education system by allocating sufficient resources to further **protect and strengthen the public school system** by improving infrastructure and facilities, hiring of teachers and staff for formal and alternative learning, addressing teacher training and welfare, and supporting learners in all learning pathways. He should prioritize the issuance of pending IRRs and policy guidelines of newly-passed laws that are vital to support the marginalized, excluded, and vulnerable sectors (MEVS) in education, such as the **Alternative Learning System and RA 11650 or Inclusive Education for Learners with Disabilities**.

E-Net Philippines stands resolute in its belief that a unified front between the Department of Education and various community and civil society stakeholders can bring about a much-needed transformation in the education sector. As Senator Angara takes the helm of DepEd, E-Net Philippines calls on all stakeholders to rise up and support this cause. **"Let us all move forward now! Let us work together to craft a more inclusive, gender transformative, equitable, and quality education for all Filipino learners!" ####**