

Mayor Celso Lobregat yesterday challenged the city's public school teachers and principals to give more of their time to their students than to themselves, stressing that anything the teachers may have achieved they owe it to their students.

Lobregat echoed the message during the Division Management Committee Meeting for the Year-End Performance Assessment and Fellowship at the Division Office Training Center along Calixto St., this city.

He said the teachers should report to school early at least before 7 a.m., especially on Mondays, regardless of the distance between their house and their school. "Whether you are assigned in the city proper or to the islands and far-flung barangays, the time is the same. So, you should adjust your time," he said.

The chief executive also lamented on what he termed as dismal performance of the public elementary and secondary schools in the city in terms of their ratings in the national achievement test.

"This, despite the assistance we have given to your schools. We build classrooms and other education-related projects. We also give cash incentives," Lobregat lamented even as he challenged the teachers and principals including the supervisors to aim high, if not with in the passing rate.

For his part, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, Pedro Melchor M. Natividad, who is also officer-in-charge of Office of the Schools Division Superintendent, said the mayor's statement would serve as an eye-opener "for all of us in our efforts and strive for quality education".

He said measures have already been taken to improve the performance of the city's public schools in the national achievement test, even as he emphasized the core values of leadership, cooperation and excellence.

Also present was Councilor Rudy Lim, chairman of the committee on education in the City Council. — Vic Larato