

PRESS RELEASE

Cotabato Division begins rehabilitation of burned school building

Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Superintendent of Cotabato province, Remy Mier-Rivera has ordered the construction of temporary classrooms in Bualan Elementary School in Pikit after two of its classroom buildings were torched by armed men purportedly hired by losing barangay candidates.

“We need to normalize classes in Bualan as soon as possible,” said Education Secretary Armin Luistro. “The schooling of our children must not be interrupted by these incidents.”

The burned two-classroom school building housed grade one and two pupils of the school.

“I have ordered the expeditious processing of the 4th quarter MOOE of the school so it can be used to construct a temporary classroom,” said Undersecretary for Regional Operations Lino Rivera in a report to Luistro.

Bualan Elementary School was re-opened in October 2008 after the armed confrontation between the AFP and the MILF troops ceased. For years, the school has not encountered problems until November 24, 2010.

“That day marked a sad moment in the history of Bualan Elementary school,” narrated school principal Mr. Benjar Ali Modale. “Our students suffer the most when incidents like this happen,” he added.

School and barangay officials along with the parent-teacher association members are set to meet again on December 5 to discuss what actions they will take to ensure the safety of the students.

Estimated cost of damages is P1.2 million. The rooms are used by 119 Grade 1 and 97 Grade 2 students.

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