

## PRESS RELEASE

**DepEd continues fight against graft and corruption in government**

The Department of Education, in its effort to strengthen good governance in carrying out its mandate of making quality basic education accessible to Filipinos, has issued DepEd Memorandum No. 485, series 2010 to encourage all teaching and non-teaching personnel to join the anti-graft and corruption prevention campaign this December.

“We have to uphold our integrity as we push for the thrust of implementing policies that conform to the ethical standard of public service,” said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

The seminar, organized by the Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values (CRFV), an Anti-Corruption Unit of the Office of the Ombudsman, aims to raise public awareness on the evils of corruption and the means of fighting the same. It also wants to create a network of vanguards who will act as “eyes” and “ears” of the Office of the Ombudsman and Transparency International and to establish grievance centers or public assistance centers. Also, the event seeks to ensure and broaden citizen community-based participation in the drive against corruption and inefficiency in the government.

Activities will be conducted in clusters depending on the availability of DepEd personnel in each region nationwide.

“Being the largest bureaucracy in the Philippine government, DepEd employees should always live as good examples to the people, specifically to the young children entrusted to our care. We should always teach values and practices to ensure that we are with the government in fighting corruption and other bad practices inside government offices,” emphasized Luistro.

Luistro counts on DepEd’s employees to apply and put into practice whatever they will learn from the activities so that, “we can all work together to boost the department’s morale and inspire the entire work force to do even better as public servants.”

Aside from teachers and school personnel, schools division/city superintendents, administrative officers, and other government employees are also encouraged to join the CRFV event.

DepEd believes that activities like this support the vision of President Aquino for a better Philippines – with the entire government striving to perform its tasks with integrity, transparency, and efficiency to deliver better public service.

In February, DepEd was awarded by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) for ranking eighth among 177 government agencies in the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) 2009 Awards. DepEd was cited for the first and second quarter of 2009. Also, the department was ranked the least corrupt agency and number one in public approval rating in a 2009 Pulse Asia Ulat ng Bayan survey.

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