

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd holds Education Week; emphasizes role of education in empowering children

To reaffirm and emphasize the role of education in empowering and developing the young into becoming productive citizens of the country who are responsive to the needs of the times, the Department of Education is celebrating Education Week nationwide guided by the theme, *“Edukasyon: Tungo sa Tapat na Pagbabago at Pag-Unlad”*.

DepEd has issued Memorandum 491, series of 2010, to announce the conduct of an Education Week from December 6-10 as part of its efforts to encourage every stakeholder to invest in education.

“We always say that we should not give up on education for it is truly key, the foundation from where our citizens can not only lead productive lives but also give of themselves in a rippling, multiplier effect. It is one of the few ways of achieving true reforms in the country,” said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

He, however, believes that DepEd alone cannot make education serve its purpose and that the department needs the support of all sectors.

“For education to truly serve its purpose, we need to establish partnerships among all stakeholders, including those in the grassroots level. The idea tells us that the entire community, not just parents, must actively participate in the upbringing of children—for the good of the children and the greater good of the community,” explained Luistro.

Aside from emphasizing the role of education in the society, the celebration also aims to strengthen cooperation among stakeholders in education to support the necessary and significant changes to achieve quality and relevant education. Moreover, it intends to inspire every educator to do more for the schoolchildren to ensure their future.

Luistro joins President Benigno Aquino III in his desire to make the Filipino people immediately feel positive changes in their lives particularly in education.

“Education is among the President’s priorities. Like him, I want to make a positive difference in the lives of our countrymen through the education reforms I will initiate under my term in the department. And perhaps we can all agree that if more of our people were better educated, poverty would not affect our country as much as we are experiencing today,” noted Luistro.

All school officials are encouraged to conduct simple and austere programs and activities consistent with the theme and objectives of this year’s celebration during the week. The regional directors and schools division/city superintendents are enjoined to take an active lead during the week-long celebration.

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Among the suggested activities to be conducted during the week-long celebration are: putting up of bazaars/tiangge; seminar / training / workshop / team-building for students and teachers; exhibits of outstanding achievements; awarding of outstanding teachers, employees, programs, and projects; awarding of appreciation to all partners, LGUs, NGOs, PTAs, and sponsors; academic and co-curricular contests.

The list also includes a tree-planting, tree-growing and tree-caring activity (DepEd Order No. 33, s. 2008); Run for Education (The funds collected will help in renovating school buildings destroyed by typhoons); *Brigada Eskwela Plus*; Balik Paaralan (The Supreme Student Governments and Supreme Pupil Governments officers will serve as teachers to out-of-school youth, street children and others. They may give books, papers, pencils, pens, and other school materials); and *Pasko Na!* (Schools and offices will conduct a pre-Christmas activity like gift-giving. Beneficiaries should come from poor communities, orphanages and others).

Luistro mentioned that the celebration echoes Pres. Aquino's vision of "fixing basic education to fix the long-term problems of the country. And if we fix the country's problems, we can build a truly strong society we can proudly call the Philippines."

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