

PRESS RELEASE

## DepEd joins call for lasting peace

The Department of Education (DepEd) joins the Yes for Peace – *Bayanihan Para sa Kapayapaan* campaign. Translated the campaign title means, “Communal Unity to Achieve Peace.”

“Education is a necessary element for lasting peace and poverty alleviation,” said Education Secretary Armin Luistro. “At the same time, we at the Department have an obligation to uphold children’s rights, and keep our schools free from any form of violence and abuse.”

Luistro issued DepEd Memorandum number 428 series of 2010 on October 1, 2010 transmitting to all DepEd offices a survey form and two tabulation forms that is expected to reflect how the public feels about the state of peace in the country.

“We want to show both sides (military and rebels) that the Filipino people want peace,” explains Yes for Peace lead organizer Ernesto Alcanzare. “We will show the world that Filipinos are peace-loving citizens.”

In a school set-up, the answers to the questionnaires will be tallied at the homeroom level then at the school level before it is collected by members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines (BSP and GSP) for mailing through the Philippine Postal Corporation (PhilPost).

Students are encouraged to give copies of the questionnaires to their parents and relatives.

Members of Alcanzare’s fraternity, the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity, will look for sponsors to pay for the reproduction and packaging of the questionnaires. Fraternity members nationwide may also help in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires.

Aside from DepEd, APO, PhilPost, and the two scout organizations, the inter-agency technical working group for the campaign is composed of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Peace Process, the Philippine National Police, Philippine Information Agency, and the National Printing Office.

The form asks the following questions in Filipino to all recipients. Answer can be either a YES or a NO.

1. Must we stop the hostilities between the government and the rebels this 2010?
2. Must we work together to immediately rebuild the communities torn down by hostilities?
3. Must we heal the wounds in the heart of the citizenry and have those involved in the hostilities come to an agreement?

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4. Must we widen the number of heroes for peace who advocate the Yes for Peace campaign at increase the participation of each Filipino in a more comprehensive peace process?
5. Must we change societal, economical and political practices right now as a way to stop armed conflict?
6. Must we lay down the guidelines for unity for peace through consultations with the Filipino people?
7. Must we now have a unilateral agreement for peace between the government and all rebel and have that implemented immediately?
8. Must we continue with the amnesty program that will help insurgents return to society and live normal lives?
9. Must we continue to protect unarmed victims and reduce collateral damage from hostilities?
10. Must we strengthen the advocacy for peace through teaching and promote steps that can help establish trust between the government and the rebel organizations?

The forms are available for download at the website of DepEd: <http://www.deped.gov.ph/cpanel/uploads/issuance/mg/DM%20No.%20428%20s.%202010.pdf>

Those interested may call up Mr. Ernesto Alcanzare at 0905-258-3224 or email him at [yes4peace@gmail.com](mailto:yes4peace@gmail.com).

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