

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd resumes classes with great hope towards improved education system in 2011

“As we welcome you back to school and begin the Year 2011, I really pray that our students, teachers, and staff will usher in fresh hope for the country and show that DepEd is ripe for change!”

This is what Education Secretary Armin Luistro has to say when asked what he wishes for this new year.

After the holiday break that started on December 18, the Department of Education welcomes back its students on January 3 as classes in schools officially resume with the hope that 2011 will be a good year for the department after its 19 percent budget increase.

Noted to be the biggest budget in years, the P207B budget will enable DepEd to address the major concerns confronting the country’s public education system and raise the achievement levels of learners.

“As we build classrooms and upgrade facilities, let us also exert every effort to ensure that we use these valuable resources responsibly to bring up the quality of education in the country,” reminded Luistro as he encourages the entire DepEd family to start the year right.

DepEd vows to optimize the use of its allocation more judiciously. In fact, Luistro has ordered to further simplify operations of the whole bureaucracy for a more efficient spending of public funds.

“This is the best time to leave behind systems that don’t work, practices that corrupt and time that is wasted,” Luistro noted. Luistro also asks his DepEd family to uphold the integrity of the department “as we push for the priority programs in line with our Education For All by 2015.”

“Let’s build school communities with fiscal and academic integrity so we can build a nation of honest and hard-working citizens, responsible stewards of our collective wisdom and protectors of the environment,” added Luistro. Being the largest bureaucracy in the Philippine government, Luistro counts on all DepEd’s employees to always live as good examples to the people, specifically to the young children entrusted under the department’s care.

In 2011, DepEd is set to implement the universal public kindergarten program for 5-year olds to give new entrants to basic education the proper preparation on the rigors of schooling. In line with this, DepEd encourages parents to pre-register children in the kindergarten program this January to avoid the usual enrolment rush in May and June as part of the ongoing campaign of the department to bring all school-aged children to school.

DepEd is currently doing the groundwork on the 12-year basic education cycle which starts with a strengthened kindergarten program. The proposal to add two more years in basic education is aimed at producing high school graduates who

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are better prepared for the world of work, self-starting ventures or college studies.

Meanwhile, Luistro reminded students to start reviewing their lessons as the schedule of their 3rd Quarterly Examinations will be on January 17-18 based on the School Calendar School Year 2010-2011 under DepEd Order No. 26, series of 2010.

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