

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd vows more judicious use of public funds

The 19 percent increase in the Education Department's budget noted to be the biggest in years will enable the Department of Education to address the major concerns confronting the country's public education system and raise the achievement levels of learners.

"Certainly, the bigger allocation – from P175 billion in 2010 to P207 billion in 2011 -- means that we can now start to plug shortages and provide for basic learning resources," said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

One of the priorities of DepEd is to ensure that all school-aged children attend school, with special focus on some 2.4 million 5 year-olds and 2.42 million 6 year-olds who must be in Kinder and Grade 1, respectively;

"We are also implementing innovative programs that strengthen the holding power of schools, especially at the first 3 grades of elementary education," Luistro added.

DepEd is also set to bring back out-of-school youths/adults to the literacy programs and make them pass the Accreditation & Equivalency Test that will open for them better life opportunities.

Early on, Luistro has ordered to further simplify operations of the whole bureaucracy for a more efficient spending of public funds and optimize use of the Department's limited resources.

Related to this, DepEd has not renewed the contracts of a number of its consultants as part of its thrust to streamline operations while maintaining the contracts of those whose services are in line with the priority projects of the department.

DepEd spokesman Undersecretary Alberto Muyot clarified further that the evaluation of consultants is an ongoing effort, keeping in mind the individual expertise of the consultants and how they fit into the policy direction of the organization regardless of the administration they previously served.

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