

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A 'window of opportunity' opens for Muslim OSYs

The TVET-ALIVE Massive Project Orientation for Muslim Out-of-School Youth kicks off today, October 29, 2008, at the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology. Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus will be joined by Prince Sultan Mangondato, Iligan City Mayor Lawrence Cruz, and DepEd Undersecretary for Muslim Affairs Manaros Boransing.

Iligan City's Muslim OSYs who are interested to learn vocational skills can now join the Technical-Vocational Education Training with Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education or TVET-ALIVE.

DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus believes that "education and training will lead to lasting peace and progress. TVET-ALIVE will not only address the lack of employment prospects in the South, but also reduce the broader conflict that time and again puts Mindanao in the spotlight."

Based on a survey conducted early this year, 1,000 Muslim OSYs' areas of interest include cellphone repair, welding, small engine repair, dressmaking, masonry and carpentry.

"This program will contribute to the growth of livelihood opportunities for Muslim out-of-school youth," said Lapus. He added that "in providing opportunities, DepEd gives equal opportunities for both in- and out-of-school youth, and does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity or religion."

TVET is a skills-training program that provides Muslim OSYs with employable skills while ALIVE is a 20-day competency-based training that also re-orientes them on the teachings of Qur'an. It also introduces them to basic Arabic language used in the context of the workplace.

TVET with ALIVE is spearheaded by the Department of Education and implemented in partnership with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It is a government intervention program that opens socially and economically productive opportunities to Filipino Muslim youth who are out of school.

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