

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd seeks public's cooperation for the 2010 Census

The Department of Education (DepEd) is seeking the help of barangay officials, LGU officials and the general public in ensuring the success of the 2010 Census of Population and Housing.

Citing reports from teachers all over the country, the DepEd said that many teachers are experiencing difficulty in conducting the interviews with some families even refusing to let the teachers inside their homes.

The DepEd has deployed some 75,000 teachers nationwide for the 2010 Census. The deployment is in support of the National Statistics Office's goal to provide government planners, policy makers, and administrators with accurate and timely data on which to base their plans and programs.

Education Secretary Mona D. Valisno said that doing house to house interviews is hard and difficult work so she is appealing to the public to cooperate with the teachers. "We ask the people to cooperate in giving our teachers accurate data on their households. This is very important because this census is part of a national aim to better plan for the welfare of our citizenry in terms of health, education, jobs, and other critical social services," she said.

"An accurate and timely census on population and housing is important for government's economic planning and budget allocation for various programs. This is why we're sending our teachers and have trained them to carry out this task professionally," she added.

Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya, DepEd Spokesperson, said that the public should not be afraid or suspicious about the Census because there is nothing sinister or threatening about the program. He said that local officials should help the NSO in informing the public about the Census.

He assured the public that in accordance with Section 4 of Commonwealth Act 591, any information obtained in the interview will be held strictly confidential and will not be shared with a third party except the National Statistics Office.

Malaya said that each teacher assigned to the Census will also have a Census ID card issued by the NSO Administrator in addition to the DepEd Identification Cards. "The public can check if the person visiting their homes has a NSO ID Card to ensure the credentials of the person," he said.

He said that the 2010 Census will obtain a complete count of Philippine population, demographic characteristics (population density, ethnicity, education level, health, economic status), and geographic distribution in the Philippines.

He said that teachers are gathering the data through house-to-house visits and personal interview of the head of the household or any responsible member of the household. The interviewers and their supervisors will also visit those staying in hospitals, sanitarium, penitentiary, military camps, convents, seminaries and other institutions in order to obtain a complete count. **END**

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