

PRESS RELEASE

## **DepEd reminds teachers to remain neutral this election period**

The Department of Education is issuing a warning to all its officials, public school teachers, and employees not to involve themselves in partisan politics this coming elections and to ensure that they do their duty in ensuring a free, honest, and clean elections.

“I call on the entire Department, especially the Superintendents who will serve in the Board of Canvassers, and the teachers who will serve in the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) in the various precincts nationwide to preserve the integrity and dignity of the education sector by not engaging directly or indirectly in electioneering or any partisan political activity except to vote,” said Education Secretary Mona Valisno.

Valisno said that she wants all DepEd employees to be role models among all government employees and as such, they should maintain utmost impartiality and neutrality in exercising their official functions during the conduct of the elections.

She added that all DepEd employees found to be engaged in electioneering will be administratively charged and subject to disciplinary action under Civil Service Law and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya, DepEd Spokesman, explained that all DepEd officials and employees as members of the Civil Service are prohibited under the Constitution to involve themselves in partisan politics.

“Civil Service Law expressly prohibits government employees from engaging directly or indirectly in any partisan political activity or taking part in any election except to vote. This also includes using official authority or influence to coerce the political activity of any person, party, or body,” said Malaya.

Malaya added that the reminder was issued after receiving several reports from the field that some officials and teachers were allegedly campaigning for candidates or political parties.

He said that Valisno wants responsible DepEd officials to immediately look into reports that teachers were involved in electioneering as soon as they receive one.

He also voiced DepEd’s call for the public to report any incidence of electioneering on the part of DepEd employees to the nearest DepEd Division or Regional Office or report the matter directly to the office of Undersecretary Franklin Sunga at 633-7205 or call the DepEd Action Center at 636-1663 or send a text message to 0919-456-0027.

“DepEd officials and employees are also deputies of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), hence any hint or suspicion of impropriety should be avoided at all times. Thus, we urge the public to be vigilant and help the DepEd ensure the success of our first ever automated elections,” Malaya said.

**END**