

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DepEd earmarks P19.2 M for Madaris in Mindanao

DepEd has set aside financial assistance amounting to P19.2 Million to selected Madaris or Muslim schools in Mindanao to further the cause of peace and development in the south through education.

Some 37 private Madaris qualified for financial assistance. Twenty-seven came from DepEd ARMM, which includes the Divisions of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur I and II, Shariff Kabunsuan, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao and Tawi-Tawi; eight from Region XII (Cotobato City and General Santos City) and two from Region XI (Davao City). The financial assistance will benefit 3,834 pupils at P5,000 each.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said, "Our efforts to push the peace process shifts to a high gear by providing financial grants in education initiatives."

He added, "Our efforts towards achieving a lasting peace in Mindanao will surely contribute to our attaining peace in the whole country."

"The Department is committed in providing quality education to all children irrespective of their color, religion or culture," stressed Lapus.

Mainstreaming standard curriculum in Madrasah Education in the basic education system is one of DepEd's priority programs.

"Aside from the lessons regularly taught in Madaris, our Muslim brothers and sisters will adopt the standard curriculum to give them equal chance in employment opportunities," Lapus pointed out.

The Enriched Curriculum for elementary public schools and the Standard Curriculum for private Madaris are mechanisms of teaching the unreached and providing education that is meaningful, relevant and culture-sensitive for Muslim children.

The Standard Curriculum integrates basic subjects with their religious subjects such as Qur'an, Aqeedah and Fiqh, and Seerah and Hadith. Lapus noted that through this curriculum, the Filipino national identity is promoted even as the Muslim's cultural heritage is preserved.

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These private Madaris to be assisted financially by DepEd complied with DepEd Order No. 81 s2007. They have obtained the permit to operate from the Department or DepEd ARMM. These schools adopt/offer the 'Standard Curriculum for private Madaris.

The financial assistance will be used for the payment of the salaries of the teachers and the improvement of classroom facilities of pupils enrolled in the private Madaris.

The term madaris refers to the plural form of Madrasah, which is the Arabic word for school, whether religious or secular.

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