

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd supports P-Noy on two more years in basic education

The Department of Education chief expresses its full support to President Noynoy Aquino's 12-year education cycle to make it at par with the world's standard.

DepEd Secretary Armin Luistro reiterates that he is behind P-noy to upgrade the country's basic education. "I am not having second thoughts and the President has my full support in this education reform agenda," said Luistro.

He furthered that changing the education cycle from 10 years to 12 years is no easy task but is attainable. However, the processes will take time and may go beyond the term of the current or even the next administration.

"I believe the process will take some time and may go beyond the term of the Aquino administration owing to the changes to be made in the curriculum. We will review it, evaluate the contents, integrate what needs to be integrated and see how it is going to work. Then we will give our recommendation to the President," Luistro explained.

In the President's first State of the Nation Address (SONA), he included the 12-year education cycle as part of his reform programs, saying, "Magkakaondo na po para maipatupad ang mga plano natin sa edukasyon. Mapapalawak natin ang basic education cycle mula sa napakaikling sampung taon tungo sa global standard na labindalawang taon."

Luistro said that once the decision is made to change, it will be irreversible. "We will begin implementing the new curriculum in the first grade while the second grade continues with the old curriculum. The following year, those from grade 1 will use the new grade 2 curriculum until they complete the new cycle. After nine years from first implementation, all those under the previous 10 year cycle will have graduated and the new one is in effect."

He, however, explained that it is not just the question of adding more years. "It is not just about adding more years but about giving the Filipino youth a holistic education curriculum that will prepare them for real life."

Sec. Luistro and the entire department agree to President Aquino when he said, "if we fix basic education, we fix the long-term problems of the country. And if we fix the country's problems, we can build a truly strong society we can proudly call the Philippines."

"Although the department takes this as a big challenge, we join the entire Aquino administration in its goal of bringing hope and contributing for the common good of our real boss – the Filipino people, in general, and the youth, in particular," assured Luistro.

Also, Luistro wants to address backlogs in education resources in two years as part of the government's serious reform efforts. **END**