

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd celebrates Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa

The Department of Education joins the country in celebrating Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa this August which gives special focus on the promotion of the national language and environmental protection.

DepEd is closely coordinating with the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino to celebrate the Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa in August, per P.D. 1041, series of 1997, as declared by Former President Fidel Ramos. This year's theme is, "*Sa Pangangalaga sa Wika at Kalikasan, Wagas na Pagmamahal Talagang Kailangan.*"

"The department is in full agreement with the chosen theme which highlights two very important concerns of our time, the flourishing of a national language and increasing awareness on environmental issues," said DepEd Chief Br. Armin Luistro FSC.

Luistro added that celebrating the Buwan ng Wika yearly unites us as one unique race, saying, "our national language defines us as a nation."

Several sub-themes are lined-up for the month-long celebration of our national language. On August 1-7, the celebration will be guided by the topic, "*Wika'y Kailangan sa Pandaigdigang Impormasyon sa Pangangalaga sa Kalikasan*". On the other hand, on August 8-14, it will be "*Wika'y Instrumento sa Pagpapalaganap ng Kamalayan sa Pagbabago ng Kalikasan*".

Moreover, "*Wika'y Mabisang Susi sa Edukasyong Pangkalikasan*" will be the topic on August 15-21 while "*Ang Pagpapahalaga sa Wika at Pangangalaga sa Kalikasan ay Pagmamahal sa Inang Bayan*" will be on August 22-28.

Lastly, on August 29-30, it will be "*Wika't Kalikasan Mahalin at Pangalagaan, Biyaya ng Poong Maykapal sa Bayan*".

Luistro encourages the active participation of everyone in this national undertaking. "I encourage the whole community, especially the youth, to join us in enriching our national language as we also unite to be responsible individuals who are truly mindful of what we do everyday to protect the environment," added Luistro.

The celebration will include specific activities that will display our love for our language and for our environment. Some of these will be a seminar-workshop to tackle urgent environmental issues using our national language, dialogues between schools and local government units, art/poster-making contests which focus on the protection of the environment, forum and coordination with DENR officials on their environmental protection programs, and film showing about climate change.

Students may also participate in plays that show the relationship between man and nature, and debate on the effects of industrialization on the environment

using Filipino as medium.

Moreover, teachers will be expected to discuss in class the importance of the Filipino language in understanding climate change.

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