

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **New Region 8 cities get own DepEd divisions**

Three newly-minted cities in Region 8 now have their own Department of Education divisions to fully supervise education-related operations and oversee schools in their localities.

Mayors of the newly legislated cities of Borongan, Baybay, and Catbalogan and their DepEd counterparts received today from Education Secretary Jesli Lapus the symbolic keys of responsibilities in a simple ceremony held in Palo, Leyte.

Attending the 33<sup>rd</sup> founding anniversary of DepEd Region VIII, Lapus led the turn-over of responsibility over newly created DepEd division to the city mayors and their city division superintendents.

“Education is a primary concern for the people of Region 8 and the local government units are our reliable partners in upgrading the quality of basic education in our public schools,” said Lapus.

Initial operation expenses of the new offices are shouldered by the local government. The cities provided buildings, personnel, and vehicles pending their inclusion in the national budget in 2009.

Present during the turn-over ceremonies are Mayor Fidel Anacta of Borongan City, Mayor Jose Carlos Cari of Baybay City, and Mayor Coefredo Uy of Catbalogan City.

“We thank the mayors for their full support in creating their own DepEd city divisions,” shared DepEd Regional Director Sol Matugas.

Earlier, Lapus approved the appropriation of one million pesos for each division as initial funding while teacher items were provided by their respective provincial divisions.

Three laws approved in March last year converted the municipalities of Borongan, Baybay and Catbalogan into cities. Part of the provision of the laws is the creation of city divisions in each city.

Republic Act 9394 converted Borongan, Eastern Samar from a municipality to a city. Catbalogan, Samar is now a city through RA 9391 while Baybay, Leyte became a city by virtue of RA 9389.

Local governments support education through construction of classrooms, hiring of teachers, provision of reference materials and computers, among others.

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