

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 23, 2009

## DepEd kicks off search for outstanding reading teacher

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus announces today the 2009 Search for Outstanding Reading Teacher (SORT) to honor the country's top reading teachers and their important contribution to the field of literacy.

"This will motivate the teachers to excel in their field and encourage them to share their best practices in teaching Reading," Lapus said.

DepEd is currently implementing various programs to improve reading with comprehension of children in public schools. One of these is ECARP or Every Child a Reader Program, which aims to make children from Grade 1 to 6 able to read as expected at their level.

DepEd has likewise directed schools to beef up school libraries and implement different reading strategies to instil among school children the love for reading at an early age.

"When children can read and comprehend what they are reading, it is easier for them to understand other lessons in school. Learning really needs a solid foundation in reading," Lapus added.

SORT is open to all public elementary school teachers from Grades 1 to 6. The nominee should be a full-time public elementary school teacher with at least three years of teaching experience in Reading. All public schools are encouraged to submit nominees to their DepEd division offices, whose Division SORT Committee will determine the Division winner and submit to the Regional SORT Committee.

The Outstanding Reading Teacher will be chosen from the three national finalists who emerged from the regional search.

The criteria for the contest are: demonstration teaching = 40%, interview = 20%, essay writing = 20 % and document = 20%.

The winners will get their awards during the ceremony to be held on October 16, 2009.

Top three placers will get cash prizes of P75,000, P50,000 and P30,000 respectively. Top awardees will also get trophies, books for their schools while their school, division and regions will also be recognized with plaques.

All regional finalists will be conferred P10,000 cash prize and receive plaques of recognition with their respective schools, divisions and regions.

PRESS RELEASE

Meanwhile, Lopus also announced that the National Read-A-Thon (NRAT) contest will also be held together with the SORT. This is conducted to determine the best individual and team readers among elementary pupils in public schools.

For this school year, the contest is in Filipino for grade 3 pupils and English for Grade 5 pupils. Schools, divisions and regions can conduct the Read-a-Thon for all grade levels in both English and Filipino.

The NRAT has three contests namely Best Team Readers, Best in Story Retelling and Best in Oral Reading Interpretation.

**END**

**PRESS RELEASE**