

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lapus to school heads: Be life-long learners

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus calls on school heads and superintendents to keep on investing in their professional and personal development to be better equipped in improving the quality of the country's public school system.

He explained, "As the educational issues become more complex, we cannot just use our "old" competencies in addressing new and varied challenges."

"We cannot rely anymore on traditional ways of confronting these issues to significantly affect participation, completion, achievement and the total education landscape," added the DepEd chief when he addressed the Philippine Elementary School Principals Association (PESPA)-Region III Chapter during its 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Principal Development Program in Malolos, Bulacan.

He stressed that it is important for the school heads to invest first in their professional growth so that consequently, they can develop their schools.

Lapus said that to be more professionally competent school heads need to redefine transformation and reassess how to improve competencies to fully transform DepEd. "If the elementary schools are your basic responsibilities, these are also your basic accountabilities," he stressed.

He challenged the PESPA to develop competencies as transformational leaders and rally support from other stakeholders. "Influence, inspire and engage stakeholders to co-own our educational issues," he said.

Meanwhile, Lapus encouraged superintendents to be, "strategists and visionaries who can provide the momentum to sustain education reform agenda."

He emphasized this during the recent national convention of the Philippine Association of Schools Superintendents (PASS) held in Nasugbu, Batangas recently.

"As leaders at DepEd, we develop and empower people. We have the will and the resolve to institutionalize reforms. Our job description says that we don't just plan, "we should actualize our plans," he added.

PASS which celebrates its 60th year is comprised of some 1,000 strong members from about 200 provincial and city schools divisions in the country.

In 2008, the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) spent P55.18 M in 2008 for the training of school officials nationwide. Some 1140 district superintendents were trained by NEAP on division education development planning and related topics.

NEAP also trained 2,600 principals in such areas as school-based management practices, school improvement planning, instructional leadership, bridging leadership, and simplified record keeping.

Moreover, the Asian Institute of Management has been contracted to offer the Management Development Program for superintendents and Basic Business Development Program for principals.

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**PRESS RELEASE**