

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public schools to celebrate simple yet meaningful Christmas

Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Teodosio Sangil told school officials to observe austerity in the holding of Christmas party and reiterated that all contributions for the celebration are voluntary.

The guidelines are contained in DepEd Order 74 series of 2008 based on instructions from Education Secretary Jesli Lopus and in compliance with previous pronouncements from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sangil said that "Christmas celebrations should be simple but meaningful, bearing in mind the true spirit of the season."

Parents are also advised that contributions for celebrations in schools– whether in cash or in kind – are strictly voluntary. Decorations should be inexpensive, and if possible, produced by students and school staff.

Disruption of academic activities in schools should be avoided. Public schools will go on Christmas break beginning 20 December 2008. Classes will resume on 5 January 2009.

"Celebrations should not be a burden to the parents, and that teachers should not coerce students to contribute any amount," Sangil stressed.

Under the same DepEd Order, the whole of DepEd from its central down to field offices are told to minimize expenses during celebrations. Guidelines on voluntary contributions and avoidance of work disruptions also apply to education officials and employees.

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PRESS RELEASE