

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd reforms enhance resource and school management

“If they can’t balance their own checkbooks, they are not fit to handle school finances,” Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus said about the need for management training for school heads.

The Education Chief also mentioned that school principals are currently being trained to manage cash and other resources in line with the department’s thrust to make school heads better managers. “Our principals must have the know how on resources management including bookkeeping or understand what is the ‘bottom line’ when budget preparation time comes around?” said Lapus.

Lapus has instituted various reforms that resulted to improved administrative procedures and imbued school heads with financial know-how to better manage their schools.

He also disclosed that “procedures and guidelines on Records Management, Property Acquisition, and Disaster Risk Reduction have also been manualized to avoid ad-hoc solutions, influence peddling, and other unethical practices.”

The manual will standardize handling of official records like report cards, student profiles, and teacher records. This will ensure that personnel movement caused by promotions, transfers, and retirements will not in any way affect operation of schools.

Among the department’s accomplishments include the newly-instituted procurement system with more effective checks and balances. DepEd’s National Textbook Delivery Program has been cited by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – an international forum of donor governments and multilateral organizations including the United Nations and World Bank.

The OECD-prepared fact sheet which recognized DepEd’s procurement system was circulated to 22 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean that are piloting and testing tools and methodologies for assessing national procurement systems.

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