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JANUARY 31, 2008

Public Education Resources Up in 2007

The Department of Education (DepEd) said it achieved in 2007 higher levels of performance in providing public schools with new resources that help improve learning and access to learning among students.

“We have met many essentials for classroom-level resources and have provided much-needed new positions in the system” said DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus.

Having identified the school principal as a crucial resource to provide instructional leadership and overall management of the school, DepEd provided over 1000 new items for school principals from 2007 to 2008. This is in addition to the nearly 1000 new principals in 2006. About 60% of all public schools were previously without principal items.

Public schools were also provided with supplemental budget to support the development of the students thru the co-curricular activities and special curricular offerings. These are mostly at the secondary level that specialized in Science, Math, Arts, Sports, Special Education and Technical-Vocational education.

DepEd set up the School Based Management Grant (SBMG) which provides funds to help schools to manage their own affairs with strong community participation for improved delivery of educational services in a sustainable manner. Some 10,000 schools benefited from this program in 2007. This is in addition to the 4,600 schools that benefited in 2006.

Furthermore, effective learning among students was enhanced with the provision of basic equipment in science and math. Some 1,812 priority schools were equipped in 2007 for teaching science subjects under the Science Equipment Mass Production Project. This strategy helped students apply the scientific concepts they learned in the classroom as they can tinker with some equipment and paraphernalia.

In a related development, DepEd also came up with several programs that sought to provide education to as many learners as possible. One such program was the Early Childhood/Preschool Education for 5-year olds. The department spent P250 million for this program in 2006. This amount was doubled in 2007.

Assistance to private schools came in the form of increased study subsidies to deserving students who wish to enroll in private high schools. For 2007, some 607,085 students directly benefited from the P3 billion Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE Program).

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Public schools were armed to make education of Muslim students at par with their non-Muslim counterparts. The program, as of 2007, has been implemented in public schools in all the 17 regions. Some 10,000 copies of the enriched curriculum framework for elementary public schools and standard curriculum for private madaris or Muslim schools have been distributed nationwide with the assistance of the UNICEF.

Teachers and educational managers can now have a variety of learning materials, strategies and modalities that can enrich teaching and learning experience in the classrooms through the ICT program. About 68 percent of high schools now have working computer laboratories. Some 15 percent have already been connected with the internet.

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