

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DepEd cited for anti-corruption efforts

The Department of Education's effort to strengthen good governance in carrying out its mandate of making quality basic education accessible to Filipinos gets recognition.

DepEd was recently awarded by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) for ranking eighth among 177 government agencies in the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) 2009 Awards. DepEd was cited for the first and second quarter of 2009.

"We are very happy to receive this recognition. This shows that DepEd's thrust of implementing policies that conform to the ethical standard of public service is bearing fruits," said DepEd Secretary Jesli A. Lapus.

The awardees' rating was based on how the agencies performed anti-graft and corruption measures in compliance with the requirements of IDAP in 2009.

Lapus is proud of his department's latest recognition. "This boosts the department's morale and inspires us to do even better as public servants."

IDAP is in line with the government's efforts to fight graft and corruption in the executive branch. It is composed of 22 "doables" or specific anti-corruption measures which are clustered into strategies of prevention, education, investigation and enforcement, and strategic partnership.

Specifically, prevention includes systems reform to minimize opportunities for graft and corruption while education focuses on values formation, educating public servants on the dos and don'ts of public service and advocacy to fight the negative perception of the public.

On the other hand, deterrence is the effort to make corruption a high-risk, low reward activity by establishing an effective system to encourage public support, quick response, effective prosecution and disciplinary action, professionalism, and publicity in successful cases. Lastly, strategic partnership is enjoining the support of the public in the fight against graft and corruption through strategic partnership.

"In whatever we do, we should always strive to do it with integrity, transparency, and efficiency so that we can deliver better public service," added Lapus.

It can be recalled that DepEd was ranked the least corrupt agency and number one in public approval rating in a 2009 Pulse Asia Ulat ng Bayan survey. Secretary Lapus was also cited best performing cabinet secretary in the same poll.

END

PRESS RELEASE