

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 19, 2008

1st national arts festival draws student artists, musicians

In pursuit of its mandate to develop well-balanced quality education, the Department of Education (DepEd), in cooperation with the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), will hold the First Sining Pambansa Festival at Teachers' Camp, Baguio City from February 28 to March 1, 2008.

Themed *Celebrating Unity in Cultural Diversity Through the Arts*, the event seeks to strengthen students' advocacy for the arts through appreciation of indigenous art forms. It also promotes cultural awareness of traditional and contemporary Filipino artists.

"It is important for our youth to know the significance of art to the individual and society," DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus said. "Appreciation of the local art forms should be an integral part of their education," he added.

Activities during the Sining Pambansa include regional street dance parade, plenary sessions, fora, interactive breakout sessions, showcase of talents, learning sessions, exhibits, and guided tours.

This event is open to all students from the 16 Special Program in the Arts (SPA) pilot schools. SPA regional/division/schools coordinators, principals, schools superintendents, regional directors, and representatives from the Philippine High School for the Arts and Mandaue City for the Arts are encouraged to attend.

END

For further details, please contact Ms. Vanessa Nallano at tel. nos. (02)6337224 and (02)6339641. You may also contact the DepEd Culture and the Arts Office thru Mr. Marcos Rodil at 09202911589.

PRESS RELEASE