

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd pump-primed economy by building schools

The Department of Education is doing its share in pump-priming the economy by earmarking some P3.1 billion this year to build schools, thus creating jobs and generating income under its 2009 School Building Program.

A total of 1,908 new classrooms, 6,322 new toilets, 2,513 repairs of existing classrooms and 194 repairs of toilets are targeted for completion prior to school opening in June 2009.

“This is an important undertaking of the government that will benefit many sectors. It will fill the gap in classroom shortage and at the same time help pump up the economy by employing many people in the building and construction business.

The budget has been allocated for the construction of school buildings in areas experiencing acute classroom shortage (Red and Black schools); construction and/or rehabilitation of school buildings and water and sanitation facilities. Also to be undertaken is the construction of school buildings in Southern Philippines under the Support to Philippine Education Reform (SPHERE) Projects.

To ensure that these facilities can be used at the start of SY 2009-2010, President Gloria Arroyo instructed DepEd to frontload the construction of the school buildings during the long summer vacation period.

The fund will be directly released to the implementing units by the end of March 2009.

Pump priming projects require large expenditures by the government and is expected to benefit many in terms of labor, construction materials and allied products and services.

In line with the innovation of the department to ensure the strengthening of school based management, recipient school heads/ principals of the projects will take the lead in the procurement and construction monitoring of school buildings.

DepEd continues to support the efforts of schools and divisions towards self-improvement in accordance with the School-Based Management (SBM) Grant, which began in 2006. DepEd has collaborated with development partners to augment SBM grant resources.

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