

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Campus journalists sharpen skills

More than a thousand future journalists are sharpening their pens for their eventual role as chroniclers of our times under the auspices of the Department of Education's National Schools Press Conference (NSPC) being held in Naga City from February 15 to 21.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said individual and group writing contests in English and Filipino are the highlights of the five-day activity. It is participated in by public elementary and high school students from the country's 16 regions.

"We need a new crop of responsible journalists who will be the pillars of a strong democratic government. And the task of providing them the fundamentals of responsible journalism falls into the lap of DepEd," Lapus added.

Also included in the line up of activities are radio broadcasting contests and a conference on journalism focused on the theme, "Climate Change: A Call for Responsible Journalism." Online writing is one of the topics to be discussed during the concurrent sessions.

"Part of the total education package for our students is harnessing their writing skill which is a basic element of effective communication. Such skill is necessary on and off campus," Lapus stressed.

Participants to the press conference are the top three regional winners in each of the seven contest categories or 84 students per region. There are 14 participants from each region competing in the broadcast and scriptwriting contest.

The students' potential for writing will be further developed when they participate in the individual contests in editorial writing, news writing, feature writing, sports writing. They will also show their skills in copyreading and headline writing, photojournalism, and editorial cartooning.

The five categories for the group contests are editorial page or pahinang editorial, feature/literary page or pahinang lathalain, news page or pahinang balita and sports page or pahinang isports.

"Campus journalism provides students an opportunity to improve their writing skills. The press conference gives them an avenue for the expression of their views on current issues especially on the environment." Lapus shared.

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