

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 6, 2009

## Public high school students get arts nourishment

Arts come alive in public high schools as promising student artists meet with acclaimed artists for guidance and inspiration in the Pangalawang Pampaaralang Sining Pambansa (PPSP).

The sequel to last year's much attended event will return at the Baguio Teachers Camp on February 10-13, 2009. Some 1,400 participants are expected to attend including students, teachers, and school heads in the national conference.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said, "This is an opportunity to discover and nurture the artistic abilities of our youth. It is an ideal venue where we can stimulate the exchange of creative ideas between the masters and the students."

Lapus exhorted the student-participants to bring out the pride in our rich culture and arts. "May the whole world be your stage," he added.

DepEd through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Projects and Legislative Liaison, the DepEd Special Committee for Culture and Arts organized the event with active participation of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), City Government of Baguio, the Department of Tourism-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and DepEd-CAR.

This event is geared towards awareness, appreciation, preservation, promotion and development of our nation's cultural and artistic heritage. Each region should be represented by not more than 70 participants.

"With generous support from lead agencies in the art, culture and tourism this event promises to be bigger," affirmed professional conductor and DepEd CAO Consultant Rolando Garcia. He added that plenary sessions will focus on media arts and creative writing.

Nick Lizaso, a renowned Film and TV director in the country will speak on digital film making while multi-awarded screenwriter Roy Iglesias whose recent acclaim came from penning the film Baler will discuss creative writing.

All Masters of NCCA's schools of living traditions will share insights on important traditional arts in the country.

Arts camps are slated on music, dance, visual arts, creative writing, media arts, and theater arts. Garcia explained that the participants will create works of art and present them in the conference. "We expect those on the media arts camp to show us what they have developed," he stressed.

A highlight of the meet will be the performances from 17 regions at the Baguio Convention Center, which is open to the public.

Some 100 members of NCCA's Kalahi, a cultural caregiving group comprised of the disadvantaged and marginalized members of the society will also participate in the event. Through the therapeutic power of the arts, Kalahi provides livelihood to the differently-able, the out of school youth, victims of abuse, disasters and armed conflict until they become integrated to the society.

All regions are encouraged to send selected students and teachers as participants. However a maximum of 70 slots are only given for each region.

**END**

For inquiries please contact the DepEd CAO at (02) 635-2456 or (02) 632-1361 local 2049; Marcos Rodil at 0920-2911589 or Cecilia Mendiola at 0906-5573364.

PRESS RELEASE