

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DepEd pours assistance to Maguindanao

The Department of Education, through its Education Assistance to Maguindanao, has conducted a series of Psycho-social Intervention (PSI) training for school personnel to help students and teachers in their recovery process as a result of the recent tragic incident in the province.

“It is essential that we take concrete action to ensure the well-being of our students and teachers especially in times of crisis,” Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

“What they went through in Maguindanao was undeniably tough. With PSI, we want to help them recover and hopefully move on,” Lapus added.

According to Lapus, the facilitators’ training on PSI and Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing (CISD) was participated in by teachers and non-teaching school health personnel from the districts of Datu Abdullah Sangki, Datu Unsay, Shariff Aguak, and Ampatuan.

The training on PSI seeks to widen the role of school health personnel and teachers in assisting their co-workers, family and students in cases of adverse events such as disaster, death of a family member or peer pressure, which can be sources of physical, mental, psycho-social and spiritual stress.

The training was done in five batches.

Some 119 participants attended lectures and demonstrations and underwent actual debriefing exercises. At the end of the training, they conducted a sample debriefing in their schools.

Meanwhile, medical and dental mission and feeding activities were also conducted simultaneous to the training.

The combined efforts of DepEd Central Office, the Philippine Army and the ARMM’s DepEd, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development have brought medicines and food to the people of Maguindanao. A total of 2011 individuals benefited from the first leg of this endeavor.

Lapus immediately ordered the creation of this mission team to help address the pressing problems in Maguindanao.

Earlier, DepEd Central office distributed Distance Learning Modules for elementary and secondary students. The beneficiary students were from schools that were forced to suspend classes after the Maguindanao massacre due to low attendance rate.

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Similar modules were also given to out-of-school children and youth in the province.

Succeeding PSI/CISD trainings, medical/dental mission, and feeding activities are scheduled to be completed within the month of February.

**END**

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