

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd joins IMLD celebration; continues to push for the use of Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education

Recognizing the very significant role the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) plays in the overall scheme to improve learning outcomes among school children, the Department of Education joins the world in the celebration of the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) on February 21.

DepEd has issued DepEd Memorandum No. 19, series 2011 in support of the declaration of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to celebrate such to promote linguistic and cultural diversity as universal values that strengthen the unity and cohesion of societies. The Philippines chose to celebrate it with the theme Making Every Child a Reader through Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE).

“This celebration challenges us to explore more possibilities on how MTB-MLE can help our country achieve the 2015 Education for All (EFA) goals, particularly in making every child a reader. We can only achieve this if we reach, beyond the drop outs, the marginalized women and girls, child laborers, adult illiterates, indigenous peoples, children in conflict areas, and children in very isolated locations,” noted Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

IMLD also seeks to heighten awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

International studies show that children learn best when, at an early age, they are being taught using their first language or mother tongue which they use at home. It makes learning more comfortable and allows them to conceptualize and think deeper. Also, pupils who have learned to read and write in their first language learn to speak, read and write in a second and third language more quickly than those who are taught first in a second or third language.

“This is the wisdom behind the policy of DepEd to institutionalize Multi-Lingual Education (MLE) which prescribes the use of more than two languages for literacy and instruction in basic education. DepEd also sees that the policy will facilitate better learning among beginners. Hence the department has come up with DepEd Order 74 s. 2009 which promotes this method of instruction from Pre-school to, at least, Grade 3. This is also adopted under the department’s Alternative Learning System (ALS),” said Luistro.

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