

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 January 2008

DepEd 2007 Year-end Report

Gov't infused more funds to improve basic education

Government and private sector spending to improve basic education rose 16 percent from P121.9 billion in 2006 to P141.3 billion in 2007 with more funds channeled to upgrade the teaching-learning process.

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus said the 2007 funding support to basic education included the 14 percent increase in the national government appropriation and was augmented by unprecedented level of infusion from the private sector and official development assistance.

DepEd's share of P137 billion represented 20 percent of the 2007 national budget (net of internal revenue allotment (IRA) and debt service allocation). It comprised of personal services at P110 billion, maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) at P18.6 billion and capital outlay (CO) at P8 billion.

"The budget distribution is an improvement from prior year's, implying that more resources were made available this year to directly improve the teaching-learning process as seen from the allocation in MOOE and CO," Lapus pointed out.

The sharing between salary (personal services) and non-salary items (MOOE and CO) showed a marked improvement – from 88%:12% in 2004-2005 to 80%:20% in 2007.

School MOOE has been raised significantly to enable principals and teachers to support teaching-learning activities in the classroom. From a per capita cost of P83 for elementary students in 2004, the amount rose 156% to P329 per child in 2007. Per capita spending for secondary students likewise increased by 81% from P329 in 2004 to P596 in 2007.

Lapus added that more budget have been directed to support school-based management operations of those offering special programs in science, math, arts, sports, special education and technical-vocational education.

DepEd's Adopt-A-School program which allows the private sector to assist public schools and grants a 150% tax incentive has so far generated a record P4.05 billion worth of interventions, donations and pledges.

"The private sector is obviously a very potent ally in upgrading the quality of education," Lapus noted. "We just have to show them performance and results," he added.

Support to improve education comes in many forms and packages. It includes infrastructure and physical facilities, learning devices and direct assistance to schools, and teacher training and development, among others.

The two areas which received the bulk of donations in 2007 were technology support for education which received P1.2 billion in assistance and health and nutrition which got P2.3 billion.

Meanwhile, Official Development Assistance from multilateral and bilateral organizations which is another source of DepEd funding was recorded at P1.08 billion in 2007. Among these organizations that provided funding are Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

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