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## Improved Management System Optimized DepEd Resources

The Department of Education (DepEd) introduced innovations in management systems in 2007 that aimed at optimizing the use of its resources and helped the department channel its resources to where it mattered most.

“Complementing our educational reforms, we have introduced a number of governance-related innovations to ensure that DepEd resources are optimized,” Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus said.

In agreement with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission, DepEd pursued the Organizational Performance Indicators Framework that operates using performance indicators with baseline and target data to gauge program success or failure.

DepEd likewise launched the Basic Education Monitoring and Evaluation System which resulted to better collection of reports, feedback system and management action.

As a result of these management initiatives and such programs as Enrolment Day, Balik Eskwela and Brigada Eskwela, DepEd reported that enrolment continues to increase at about 2% annually since 2004.

In 2006, the combined public and private enrolment in basic education aggregated to 19.4 million. For School Year 2006-2007 enrolment was P19.7 million for both elementary and secondary levels where 86% or 16.9 million are in public schools.

The figures include 607,085 beneficiaries of service contracting and education vouchers program under Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE), which represents about 50% of private high school enrolment.

“If the enrolment in preschool education and alternative learning services are included, DepEd’s total clientele will exceed the 20 million mark,” Lapus pointed out.

To address absenteeism and arrest the drop-out rate due to poor nutrition, DepEd introduced the Food for School Program whose beneficiaries increased from 676,740 preschool and grade 1 pupils in 2006 to 2.7 million preschoolers and grades 1 to 6 pupils when the program was expanded in 2007.

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In its 2007 State of Basic Education Report, DepEd noted that based on the Weight/Body Mass Index malnutrition incidence among enrolled public elementary students dropped from 20% in 2006 to 17% in 2007. Consequently, school attendance improved from 90% in 2006 to 95% in 2007.

In addressing resource shortage, DepEd was able to reduce by 60% or to 267 the barangays and municipalities with no elementary or high school from 445 in 2004. Also, the number of public schools organized increased from 36,710 in 2004 to 37,352 in 2007 or an addition of 642 more public schools into the system.

In the same year-end report, DepEd said that the perennial classroom shortage has been substantially addressed with unprecedented number of classrooms that were constructed and repaired in 2007. From 14,887 in 2006, the number rose to 25,248 in 2007 including 10,583 repaired classrooms.

These accomplishments which surpassed the target of 6,000 classrooms every year was made possible in partnership with other government offices, NGOs and the private sector.

Relative to this, some 42,572 teaching position were created from 2004 to 2007 with the most number of teaching items made available in 2007 at 16,334 as DepEd tries to meet the standard of 1 teacher for every 50 students. Principal items were likewise provided to some 3,479 schools from 2006 to 2007.

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