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High school kids get 'stock' knowledge

Public high students learn the basics of stock exchange and capital markets through the Department of Education and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) Module Development Project, which is geared towards financial literacy and investment consciousness among the youth.

The project seeks to integrate relevant capital markets information in the Secondary Education Basic Education Curriculum through a Teacher's Guide.

"In the face of a global financial downturn, the collaboration between the DepEd and the PSE to introduce capital markets education in secondary schools comes at a no better time," Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

He added, "This is integral to the department's thrust to develop among students the value of managing their daily lives – financial concerns included – to prepare them for their roles as responsible citizens and leaders."

The proposed Teacher's Guide will give mentors real life situations on how the economy works. It will be prepared and validated by education specialists and experts in the field.

Lapus shared, "We can benefit from the guide two ways. One, it serves as a valuable tool for teachers and students to understand the workings of the economy on the macro level. And two, it is a means to promote financial literacy among them."

The Education chief acknowledged PSE leadership, particularly its President and CEO Francisco Ed. Lim, for making PSE "more sensitive and relevant to the Philippine population and not only to an exclusive sector of the society."

Lapus led the ceremonial ringing of the PSE trading bell to mark the event. He was joined by Lim, Lolita Andrada, DepEd Director for Secondary Education and Ricky Trinidad, PSE Vice President.

Topics that will be part of integration are the nature, importance, and roles of the Philippine capital market and stock market in nation-building and development.

Students will also learn basic concepts of investing in the stock market including the benefits, risks and rewards of investing in the stock market. They will also be made aware of the objectives of the PSE as regulator of the country's stock market.

These topics would be integrated in Economics, which is part of the fourth year curriculum of high school students in the beginning of academic year 2009-2010.

END