

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd encourages private madaris to intensify ALIVE curriculum

To encourage Muslim educators to adopt the Standard Curriculum, the Department of Education (DepEd) extends assistance to private madaris that will integrate basic subjects in the Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) Program.

The term *madari* refers to the plural form of Madrasah, which is the Arabic word for *school*, whether religious or secular.

“Mainstreaming Madrasah Education in our system of basic education is one of the initiatives we have been undertaking to give our Muslim schoolchildren an education that is culturally-sensitive,” DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

There are two types of curriculum prescribed in Madrasah Education, namely the Enriched Curriculum for Public Elementary Schools and the Standard Curriculum for Private Madaris. The former has been implemented in all DepEd regions nationwide and is now known as the Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) Program.

Undersecretary for Muslim Affairs Manaros Boransing said that this initiative is intended to make learning among Muslim schoolchildren comprehensive. “While the ALIVE Program is integral to their education, we also recognize the need for them to learn the standard subjects taught in public schools – Mathematics, English, Science, Filipino, and Makabayan.”

As an incentive, participating madaris will be assisted by DepEd in seeking assistance from member-countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). The financial assistance is expected to cover the improvement of physical facilities such as classrooms, furniture, laboratory equipment, and libraries. Part of the assistance is also expected to go to capability building, which includes training of Muslim teachers or asatidz, management training for administrators and finance managers, and installation of accounting and financial systems.

For private madaris to avail themselves of the financial assistance, they must obtain a permit to operate from the DepEd Regional Office in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). They should also offer the Standard Curriculum for Private Madaris as prescribed under DepEd Order 51, s. 2004.

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In the interest of sustainability, private madaris are also required to charge tuition and fees at least equal to the amount of financial assistance that shall be given by OIC member-states through DepEd.

The Standard Curriculum for Private Madaris, which was approved in 2004, aimed to put in place an educational system that is appropriate for the Muslim population. It had the goal of preparing spiritually and intellectually Muslim students to serve the people and the country.

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