

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 22, 2009

School opening in September opposed

Filipinos still prefer that schools open in June rather than moving it to September.

In a recent survey conducted by the Department of Education (DepEd) to determine public sentiment on the proposal to transfer the opening of classes from June to September, 66 percent of the respondents were against while 34 percent were in favor.

The survey respondents came from schools in divisions nationwide and included teachers, parents, local government officials and other stakeholders. Some 145 or 74 % out of the 197 schools divisions participated in the survey.

DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus ordered the survey in response to proposed legislation to move the school opening.

The study, which was conducted from August to September, 2009 showed that 13 regions were not in favor of the proposal.

The majority of respondents who were against the transfer of class opening said that holding classes during the hot months of April and May is not conducive to learning. Classrooms will need additional ventilation facilities during the hot summer months, thus, incurring additional expenses for electricity. Also, summer months are spent for family bonding activities and vacation.

Fiestas and other celebrations held during summer would affect the attendance of children in school. This could also cause the disruption of classes. Students usually work during summer for their school expenses, they said.

On the other hand, only three regions were in favor of transferring the school opening. These are Region III with 54% of its respondents favoring the transfer, Region VI with the highest percentage of 68% in favor and Region IX at 51 % approval.

Those in favor of the proposal cited health and economic reasons for the transfer of school opening. They said that children are safeguarded from illnesses and other health hazards brought about by the rainy weather and floods. According to them, children can assist parents during planting and harvest seasons. This reduces the possibility of absenteeism or dropping out, they said.

The prevention of the disruption or suspension of classes whenever schools are used as evacuation centers during floods, typhoons and related disasters, are also reasons in favor of the plan.

END