

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DepEd honors best reading teachers and students

Grace Rabelas, a Grade 5 reading teacher from Region V is P75, 000 richer after being declared champion in the Department of Education 2009 Search for Outstanding Reader Teacher (SORT).

"I congratulate Ms. Rabelas and all SORT winners because you help open the minds of people through reading," Lapus stressed.

Participated by reader teachers and students around the country, the National SORT and Read-A-Thon contest for 2009 was launched in July. This event honors the country's top reading teachers and their important contribution to the field of literacy. Likewise, it also aims to determine the best individual and team readers among elementary pupils in public schools.

Finalists from the regional search all vied for the top spot during the week long competition that was administered by DepEd's Bureau of Elementary Education.

The SORT finalists were judged through the following criteria: demonstration teaching = 40%, interview = 20%, essay writing = 20 % and document = 20%.

Meanwhile, the events in the Read-A-Thon were Team reading, Story Retelling, and Oral Reading Interpretation both in English and Filipino.

Other SORT winners were Amey M. Esteban (NCR, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner up) and Eva B. Imingan (Region III, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up).

For the Read-A-Thon team reading, the champions are Lee Amhersita Q. Curias, Lorabelle Aubrey N. Espinosa, and Marie Shandy L. Ladera (Region XII, English) and Frances Marie Kyle Coralde, Rei Marie Galon, and Ericka Abdon (Region V, Filipino).

Winners in the Story retelling English and Filipino are Athanasius G. Barlam (Champion, Region VII), Stephanie D. Dullano (1<sup>st</sup> Runner up, Region XII), and Cristie Mae P. Garcia (2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up, Caraga); and Venice Kayla D. Delica (Champion, Region IV-B), Cherry May T. Virrey (1<sup>st</sup> Runner up, Region III), and Jansen Paul Mabala (2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up, Region IX) respectively.

For the Oral Reading Interpretation in English and Filipino, winners are Peter John M. Ayalin (Champion, Region III), Shaira Jane Maguiguid (1<sup>st</sup> Runner up, Region XII), and Amanda Danielle M. delos Reyes (2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up, Region IV-B); and Shaina Marie Villareal (Champion, Region V), Lara Grace M. Palay (1<sup>st</sup> Runner up), and Brian Jude Bulat-Ag (2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up, NCR) respectively.

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“It is very important that we came up with this program. Not only do we honor our outstanding reader teachers, but we also created an impact to our students that reading is a very beneficial habit,” Lapus said.

The top three placers of SORT received cash prizes of P75,000, P50,000 and P30,000 respectively and trophies and books for their schools. The school, division and regions of the top three were also recognized with plaques.

Read-A-Thon top three winners for the individual categories were gifted with P 25,000, P 15,000, and P 10,000 respectively plus medals and trophies. For the team reading, the champions received P 60,000 and medals and trophies.

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