

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Muslim teachers get faster payment of allowance thru Land Bank

Muslim teachers, also called Asatidz, can now get their salaries promptly, and more efficiently.

The Department of Education said it has started paying the allowances of Muslim teachers in public elementary schools through Land Bank's automated teller machines.

The Asatidz are volunteer workers trained by the DepEd to handle Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE). They get a maximum allowance of P3,000 per month from DepEd. For local government units that can afford to pay extra, the Asatidz get an additional P 2,000.

The old procedure showed that most school divisions encountered delays in the release of payment of the Asatidz.

"This is certainly a big relief and a more efficient way of releasing the pay of the Muslim teachers who handle ALIVE," Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

DepEd extends assistance to private madaris (Muslim schools) by integrating basic subjects such as Mathematics, English, Science, Filipino and Makabayan in the ALIVE program.

Under the new arrangement, the payment requires that the DepEd Regional Office consolidates the Asatidz payroll by Division. The payroll indicates the actual number of contact hours of the teachers. This is transmitted to the Office of the Undersecretary for Muslim Affairs for the processing of payment. In turn, DepEd submits the processed payroll to LBP for credit to individual account.

For far flung areas that are not served by Land Bank, the Schools Division Superintendent shall recommend the most effective and efficient manner of payment.

**END**

PRESS RELEASE