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Public schools to teach rule of law

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said “Rule of Law” will soon be taught in public schools to educate students on the functioning of a society that is anchored on the justice system.

The move is part of the program on Public Education on the Rule of Law Advancement and Support or PERLAS which aims to teach students in public elementary and high schools about the judiciary and the rule of law. It uses teaching and learning methods that are appropriate to the competencies of the learners.

“Through this kind of education, our students will realize their power to transform themselves, to change the world through the responsible exercise of their rights and the due observance of our laws,” Lapus said.

Phase 1 of the program focuses on the creation of the teaching exemplars or lesson models. A total of 95 exemplars have already been created for all grade levels in elementary and high school. A handbook has also been produced for use as reference material among high school students.

The handbook was written by Atty. Racquel Ruiz-Dimalanta. It discusses subjects on the rule of law such as legal structures in the Philippines, the components of the justice system and the application of legal concepts.

Curriculum writers from the DepEd and the University of the Philippines created the teaching exemplars and model lesson plans. This was in collaboration with the Supreme Court and the Lawyers’ League for Liberty or Libertas.

Director Yolanda Quijano of the DepEd Bureau of Elementary Education said the objective of each lesson was based on the Philippine Elementary Learning Competency or PELC. It focuses on teaching the school children to follow the law.

The exemplars are now tested in public schools in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Teachers will give feedback on the testing results as inputs in the revision or fine tuning of the exemplars.

The exemplars will be integrated into the curriculum of the public school system after they are pilot-tested.

“Public school teachers will be properly oriented and trained on the use of the exemplars” Director Quijano said.

The PERLAS program was given recognition through the Chief Justice Hilario Davide Judicial Reform Award when it was showcased at the International Conference on Judicial Reform. **END**

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