

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 13, 2009

## Lapus bats for recognition of birth certificates from local civil registrars

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus proposes that birth certificates issued by local civil registrars in Security Paper be given recognition by DepEd and not only those issued by the National Statistics Office. NSO documents are copies of the primary documents provided by local civil registrars.

In his speech before the members of Philippine Association of Civil Registrars (PACR) in Cebu recently, Lapus said the proposal would result to less cumbersome paper trail and thus, more savings for people who need birth certificates for employment and schooling purposes.

“Incidents of fake birth certificates in the past should be addressed by the use of security paper or SECPA and I believe DepEd should be able to come up with an order to this effect soon,” Lapus remarked.

According to Lapus a report in 1995 showed that 15 out of 100 Filipinos have no birth certificates. This may be lower than the 40% unregistered global births reported by the World Health Organization, but it is still disturbing when considered in real terms,” he said.

Out of some 88.57-million Filipinos in 2007, a staggering 13.28-million have no birth certificates.

There are people whose names are not the same as what is in their baptismal or birth certificate. Either the names are incorrectly spelled, or a word or two is missing. Or an entirely different name is recorded. There are also instances where children were registered twice.

“These records cannot remain uncorrected because it would mean unreconciled school, community or employment records” Lapus explained. “It may even cost them their chance to work abroad because of birth or baptismal records that don’t match” he added.

Lapus proposed that the PACR and the DepEd come up with information dissemination campaign in schools on the importance of civil registration. This way, school children and their parents will become aware if their births have in fact been registered. They will also know if their registration varies with the names in their baptismal certificates and school records.

PRESS RELEASE

Moreover, civil registrars could be invited to speak before school-sponsored gatherings. They can inform and encourage the students and their parents to go to the office of the civil registrar to make the necessary registration and/or corrections. Intervention can also be made through the Parent Teachers Associations in every school.

The information dissemination campaign can have a follow-through in schools by inviting civil registrars to go on campus or school visits to conduct registration and/or correction of typographical entries.

**END**

**PRESS RELEASE**