

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd mandates lessons on students' personal safety

Recognizing that children are at a constant risk to threats of a cruel and violent environment, the Department of Education has mandated the institutionalization of Personal Safety Lessons (PSL) in elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

“Because of the tender age and weak physical attributes of children, they are often the victims of abuse and exploitation,” said DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus. He said the lessons will serve as the guiding principles for children’s personal safety and protective behavior.

The PSL will be integrated in Sibika at Kultura/Heograpiya, Kasaysayan at Sibika (SK/HEKASI) in the elementary level and Araling Panlipunan (AP) in the secondary level. It will also be included Character Education and Values Education whenever possible. Lessons are made in the context of the Filipino culture.

A multidisciplinary team (MDT) in the locale will be organized to support the schools (reporting and managing cases of child sex abuse) in the course of PSL presentation. The MDT is consists of representatives from DepEd, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Local Government Unit (LGU), Philippine National Police, and Department of Justice.

The team is trained by Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA) in order to ably handle child sexual abuse disclosures in schools.

Lapus noted that personal safety lessons are integral in raising healthy and productive citizens that can contribute to the country’s development. PSL will also enhance students’ social skills, self-esteem and the vital knowledge of their rights as provided in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The CPTCSA, a non profit organization is recognized as the leading agency in providing information and technology on child-centered prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse in the schools.

DepEd Division Office and CPTCSA will work together to raise funding for the implementation of PSL.

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