

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lapus urges communities to replicate Zamboanga's 'best practice'

Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus cites Operation 10 R – or Recycle, Repair, Refurbish, Rehabilitate, Restore, Remodel, Repaint, Renew, Redistribute and Reuse – as a best practice that should be replicated in all communities to maximize scrap materials that can be reused to construct new school furniture.

“This is a model not only for public schools, but for everyone to maximize our limited resources. We thank Mayor Celso Lobregat of Zamboanga for spearheading Operation 10R, which is the best way to avoid wastage of resources that will benefit most of all our public schools,” Lapus said.

Operation 10R – which is piloted in Zamboanga City – is supported by the local government and government agencies in the locality, namely: the city government of Zamboanga, DepEd Regional Office IX, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Commission on Audit (COA).

Academic institutions, civic and business groups who are participating in Operation 10R include Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College, Western Mindanao State University, Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology, Zamboanga Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Group of Zamboanga, Los Contratistas De La Ciudad De Zamboanga, Southern Philippines Deep Sea Fishing Association, and Zamboanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Lapus added, “this is not only a best practice on how to use limited resources efficiently, but also a perfect example of community participation in education. I commend the business and civic groups and academic institutions that have united their efforts to stop wastage of existing resources in our schools.”

The city government of Zamboanga, TESDA will provide the manpower and needed equipment such as welding apparatus, carpentry tools for the project. Public schools in Zamboanga, together with participating colleges and universities, will provide the scrap materials.

Concerned COA offices will conduct immediate inventory of unusable scrap materials from various public schools. Business groups involved in Operation R10 pledged to donate construction materials, lend carpentry tools and finance the initiative.

“This undertaking is timely since it promotes efficient use of existing resources in a time of economic crisis. And we thank our partners in the private sector for helping augment the existing school furniture in our public schools,” Lapus noted. **END**