

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Food poisoning victims released from hospital

Fifty four of the 57 pupils from the Cupang Elementary School in Antipolo City who were brought yesterday to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center (ARMC) in Marikina City because of food poisoning have already been treated and were released this morning, the Department of Education said.

Another group of 27 victims were attended to at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMH) in Quezon City. Only three among the 57 victims confined at the ARMC have not yet been released, while 20 of those brought to the QMMH are still under treatment.

Other schools in Rizal province whose pupils fell ill because of food poisoning were the Mambugan Elementary School in Antipolo with seven, Morong Elementary School with four, and Teresa Elementary School with one victim for a total of 101. The total number of those admitted in the hospitals is 91 of which 65 were already discharged while 26 are still under treatment.

Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani said DepEd health staff attended to the pupils confined in the hospitals, talked to the parents and coordinated with the Department of Health about the food items in the canteen and hospital services. DepEd will also work closely with the Municipal Health Officer of Antipolo City to monitor food safety inside the school campuses and their vicinity.

"We will reissue DepEd Order Number 8 series of 2007 on school canteen management and food safety. We will also intensify food sanitation and advocacy even as we hold school heads accountable for the strict implementation of the directive from the DepEd Secretary," Usec Bacani said.

According to the report from the office of the Schools Division Superintendent of Antipolo City, the pupils complained of stomach ache and were vomiting after eating puto and banana cake. As an immediate recourse, the victims were quickly brought to the nearest hospital. The District Supervisor followed the victims to the hospital to attend to their needs.

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PRESS RELEASE