

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lapus supports teachers' coops

The Department of Education (DepEd) signed recently a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federation of Teachers Cooperatives (FTC) and other partner entities like the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC), and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). The MOA aims to augment the income of public school teachers.

Under the MOA, the DepEd has committed itself to provide the necessary assistance to all teachers' cooperatives in the country to participate in the Centralized Procurement System Project also known as 'NEGOSYONG PANG-ESKWELA'. The DepEd allows its teachers to join activities pertinent to the implementation of the project on OFFICIAL TIME, as necessary. It is also incumbent on the DepEd to encourage all school officials to support the projects necessary to promote and develop cooperatives in schools.

The FTC through its Chair Ms. Eva Feria, has committed itself to ensure the participation of teachers' cooperatives in the implementation of NEGOSYONG PANG-ESKWELA, initially in the National Capital Region (NCR) and later nationwide. Consistent to this commitment is the FTC's responsibility of assisting the organization, promotion and development of teachers' cooperatives.

During the signing, Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus affirmed his commitment to the development of teachers' cooperatives whom he places much faith in its success.

"As professionals, teachers are in the best position to illustrate the noble values of honesty, commitment, and cooperation that they often teach their pupils and students. Establishing a cooperative is not a picnic. You need to define your moves well and minimize risks by being well prepared," Lapus said.

To ensure the high quality of management in these cooperatives, Lapus asked the assistance of the PUP (who offers a Bachelor in Cooperatives degree) through its President Dr. Dante G. Guevarra, to design a practical training program on cooperative management for Negosyong Pang-Eskwela officers.

The CDA, through its Chair Ms. Lecira V. Juarez, has pledge to issue within the week a Special Order that will identify a Cooperative Development Specialist who could guide the FTC operation.

**END**

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