

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd lauds youth achievers

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus awarded five outstanding students in leadership and academics chosen among public and private high school students nationwide. They were the recipients of the fifth Pambansang Gawad sa Ulirang Kabataan.

The awardees were honored at the Provincial Capitol Gymnasium in Malolos, Bulacan as part of the 111th anniversary of Philippine Independence celebration.

The winners, selected from the recent graduating batch (completed secondary education by June 2009), are Kevin Catapusan and Sarah Donna Domingo of the Agusan National High School in Butuan City; Lorenz Ray Payonga of Marcial Panola Memorial School in Albay; Isabella Supnet of Muntinlupa Science School in Muntinlupa and Alyssa Tricia Eloise Vintola of Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial Dumaguete Science High School in Dumaguete City.

“We have a rich reservoir of outstanding future leaders among our youth. The Gawad allows our students to appreciate and emulate these youth achievers,” Secretary Lapus said.

The Pambansang Gawad recognizes the achievements and contributions of outstanding students in their school and community.

The awardees are all achievers, leaders and active community workers. They graduated with top honors in high school and went through a rigid selection process. The criteria for selection were personality and character - 20 percent; critical thinking - 10 percent; rhetoric - 10 percent; quality and content - 10 percent and credentials - 50 percent.

“The award serves as an inspiration to the youth and motivates us in getting involved in community activities. We should always strive to perform well not only in our academics but in developing our skills and our whole personality,” awardee Lorenz Payonga said.

Some five evaluators, three interviewers and three judges from the academe, the government and private sectors were invited during the three-day selection process.

The judges during the final interview were Raul Dominic Badilla of the National Youth Commission, Atty. Josephina D.V. Saliva of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and prominent TV host Eugenio “Boy” Abunda.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo directed government agencies to provide services to Filipinos as a form of celebrating the country’s Independence Day.

PRESS RELEASE

Among the highlights of the 111th celebration of Philippine Independence, were the allocation of some 9,403 new teaching positions for 2009 and the awarding of 4,500 emergency employment contracts.

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