

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DepEd trains 2,168 English teachers

The Department of Education (DepEd) recently finished training some 2,168 master teachers and senior English teachers on the use of lesson-guides in teaching English. The program is part of DepEd's continuing thrust to improve English instruction in public schools.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the teachers were chosen from low performing schools based on the recent National Achievement Test (NAT).

"This is part of our serious push to equip our teachers with needed skills to be more effective in teaching English," Lapus said. "These teachers will serve as mentors and are expected to cascade the lessons they learned in their respective schools."

The teachers who were divided into clusters received their training in various venues nationwide in April and May.

The first cluster training, consisted of 561 teachers from Regions 1, 2, 3 4A, AB, NCR, and CAR, was held in Baguio City National High School. The second cluster comprised of 227 teachers from Region 6,7 and 8 had their orientation-workshop in ECOTECH Center, Cebu City. The third cluster had 561 teachers from Region 12 and ARMM who trained in University of Southern Mindanao, Cotabato. The fourth cluster had 327 teachers from Region 5 and their training was held at Casiguran Central School, Sorsogon.

The cluster 5 training of 492 Teachers from Region 9, 10, 11 and Caraga was held at the Commission on Audit in Buhangin, Davao City.

This orientation-workshop is part of DepEd's "Project: Turning Around Low Performance in English" (Project:TURN) which seeks to reverse the low performance in English of 1,898 elementary and 264 high schools nationwide. Students in these schools got a Mean Percentage Score (MPS) of 34 % and below in the 2007 NAT.

In April, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo showed concern for the declining English language instruction in public schools and earmarked P500 Million for teacher-training.

The Department of Education has placed English proficiency as one of its priority programs for 2008 focusing on schools with low mastery level in the 2007 NAT.

NAT measures what the students understand and can do at their level. It covers Mathematics, English, Science, Filipino and Hekasi.

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The 2007 NAT results showed marked improvements in the average (MPS) in English (12.45%) while Mathematics and Science registered 12.3% and 10.3% improvements respectively.

Lapus added: “Even as we see improving NAT results in English among our students, we believe that we need an extra push to sustain their improving performance.

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