

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd leads the “Greening” of Schools

“Plant trees and make sure they’re taken care of. “

This was ordered by Education Secretary Lapus to all public and private schools nationwide as the department takes concrete steps to mitigate the effects of global warming.

Through DepEd Order No. 33, Lapus mandates schools to annually embark on sustained tree-planting and tree-caring activities in schools and communities throughout the school year.

“The global warming phenomenon requires more than lip service. It requires us to take solid, concerted action to arrest the continuing decline of our environment,” Lapus said.

Lapus emphasized the planting and caring of trees that are endemic to the Philippines such as Narra, Molave, Philippine Teak, Acacia, Kamagong Lawaan and fruit-bearing trees. These are to be planted in and around school campuses

Schools nationwide are likewise directed to implement activities such as the establishment of mini-forests and school nurseries, the conduct of fora, symposia and other related undertakings that can create greater public awareness about the state of the environment.

“I also urge school-based organizations such as the Supreme Student Government, Supreme Pupil Government, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Youth for Environment in Schools – Organization to lead the tree-planting and tree-caring activities as part of their civic duty,” Lapus added.

Meanwhile, Lapus prohibited the cutting of trees in schools even as he urged school administrators to take a direct hand in the tree-planting campaign. To sustain the campaign, Lapus urges school officials to establish partnerships with other stakeholders such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the local government units and the private sector.

The Office of Undersecretary for Regional Operations through the Center for Students and Co-curricular Affairs led by executive director Joey Pelaez is in-charge of the program.

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