

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lapus: DepEd's Balik Eskwela goes to 'Stage 2' of operations

Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus announced today that the department's Oplan Balik Eskwela Command Center has started with Stage 2 of its operations, focusing on providing prompt resolution to problems reported on school opening day by the public.

"While we have been addressing many of these issues even before the opening of the school year, we now have the advantage of getting fresh information from the field," Lapus explained. "This allows us to really zero in on the schools that need our direct intervention."

"We thank the public for providing us with the information we need to address these issues," he added.

Lapus explained that the Command Center is currently working on the critical complaints it had received through its hotlines and from walk-in guests. He also thanked the media for their contribution to the Balik Eskwela effort.

"The media's role in our Balik Eskwela effort cannot be understated," Lapus noted. "Beyond the help they've given us in disseminating vital back-to-school information to the public, they also provided us with first hand accounts on what is happening in the field, particularly in the schools that really require the direct intervention of our central office and regional offices."

"We see to it that all the efforts we have been undertaking benefit our schools and our students beyond school opening," Lapus said. "We immediately act upon the concerns brought to us primarily through our close coordination with our field offices and our Oplan Balik Eskwela partners."

Oplan Balik Eskwela is DepEd's annual nationwide campaign for the preparation of school opening. Through this campaign, DepEd seeks to address common problems encountered during school opening, provide information, and coordinate with government agencies, communities and other education stakeholders.

The education chief urged the public to contact the Oplan Balik Eskwela Command Center through hotlines 6361663, 6331942, 6340222, 6359817, 6363603, 6364880, 6366550, 6387529, 6387530, 6387531 and 7065332. The center, located at the DepEd Central Office in Pasig City, is also open to handle walk-in complaints and queries until June 5 from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The public may contact DepEd through SMS by sending their name, address and query to 09194560027 or by texting DEPED FDBK name, address and query to 2622. **END**