

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd kicks off Brigada Eskwela

The Department of Education (DepEd) leads today other education stakeholders, from the government and the private sector, for the National Schools Maintenance Week (NSMW), or Brigada Eskwela, as the country prepares for the opening of classes on June 10.

Brigada Eskwela runs from June 2-7 in time for the nationwide opening of classes for both public elementary and secondary schools.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus led the kick off event at H. Bautista Elementary School in JP Rizal, Marikina. He was joined by Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando, Representatives Del De Guzman and Marcelino Teodoro and other DepEd key officials. Lapus was joined by other public officials and DepEd partners in the painting, cleaning and repairing of schools.

Lapus said Brigada Eskwela is DepEd's model of genuine public and private partnership in action.

"It is the best time for the whole community especially the local government units to familiarize themselves with school concerns," Lapus added.

Singer/composer Yeng Constantino, who lent her top-selling song, "Hawak-Kamay" for Brigada Eskwela also provided a message and special number for the activity.

Constantino, who also comes from a family of educators, firmly believes the importance of children to be in school. She donated her song and talent fee to the campaign.

During the kick-off event, Lapus also visited Commonwealth Elementary School in Quezon City and La Huerta Elementary School in Paranaque City.

Launched in 2003, Brigada Eskwela has generated support from the private and public sectors all over the country. While no cash donations are accepted, materials for cleaning, repair and beautification can be contributed. In 2007, some P2.3B worth of support from the community were documented.

The Education Chief instructed all public elementary and secondary school heads to organize local school maintenance support from parents, local businesses, school board, LGUs, socio-civic groups, private individuals and organizations.

Regional and division offices are directed to synchronize the implementation of the School-Based Repair and Maintenance Scheme (SBRMS) with the Brigada Eskwela program to ensure maximum impact of these two support programs initiated by DepEd.

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