

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd reiterates cell phone ban during class hours

The Department of Education reiterates that cellular phones are not allowed to be used during class hours so that students remain focused in their studies and learning distractions are minimized.

DepEd Assistant Secretary Teresita Inciong cited DepEd Order Numbers 83, series of 2003; 26 series of 2000 and 70 series of 1999, which state that DepEd strictly imposes a ban on the use of cell phones by students during class hours.

“We understand the importance of cell phones in our daily activities, but still we have to set some rules on how to use them especially inside the classroom,” Inciong said.

Inciong also stressed that there is no instruction for the teachers or guards to confiscate or surrender to them the students’ cell phones. “What we do is ask the students to switch off their cell phones during class hours and switch them back on after class,” Inciong added.

The DepEd official pointed out that cell phones can be a valuable tool in research but it should not be done during class hours.

The prohibition applies to elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

Inciong also enjoins the cooperation of parents in observing the cell phone ban during class hours. “We know the importance of cell phones in times of emergency or in knowing the whereabouts of our kids, that is why the prohibition is only for a limited time,” she explained.

The DepEd Order also stated that teachers and parents should devise ways to educate students on the responsible use of cell phones to prevent them from engaging in misguided and improper activities.

DepEd noted that cell phones are used to exchange obscene text and lewd picture messages particularly those with multi-media services capability.

“We cannot stop the advances in technology but we can guide our students on what is proper and what is not,” Inciong said.

END

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