

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lapus reiterates: No Cost Basic Education Policy

“The Department of Education is determined to put every school-aged child in school at no cost,” DepEd Secretary Jesli A. Lapus announced to members of the media gathered at the Friday Balitaan sa Hotel Rembrandt yesterday.

Lapus’ reiteration of his Department’s No Collection of Fees policy comes a few days before the June 10 opening of classes in the elementary and high school levels next week.

Working under the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) goal of Education for All, the DepEd has removed several obstacles that prevent a child from being in school.

Addressing the problem on the high cost of education, the DepEd’s emphasis on the no collection of fees policy is in line with the Philippine Constitutional mandate to provide free public education at the elementary and secondary levels.

The non-mandatory wearing of uniform policy was also assured to address the problem of school uniform expenses shouldered by the parents.

Secretary Lapus vowed to make the Equivalency Examination more accessible in the regions for out-of-school-youths who desire to continue their college education without having graduated from high school. “If Manny Pacquiao can do it, there’s no reason why other out-of-school-youths can’t do it.”

He likewise expressed his gratitude to the support given by Department of Social Welfare and Development’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (PPPP). Under this program, a family in a very poor area with three children in the elementary level gets an allowance of P300 per child plus an additional P500 medical allowance for the whole family.

Lapus also updated the media on the conclusion of the Brigada Eskwela Program, which witnessed the Bayanihan spirit at the school level. Donations in money and in kind coming from the private individuals and companies poured in to support the repairs of public school buildings and other facilities.

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