

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Project Shelter: **DepEd 'open doors' to teachers' own homes**

More public school teachers and non-teaching personnel can now have their own homes at a cost that will not bust their pocket.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus announces that teachers and other DepEd personnel will now have access to socialized housing at P300,000 maximum.

Called Project Shelter, the Department of Education gets the project going in partnership with Pag-IBIG Fund, the local government units (LGUs), and non-governmental organizations Habitat for Humanity and Gawad Kalinga.

"Providing opportunities for our teachers and DepEd personnel to have a roof over their head which they can call their own is a big boost to DepEd's workforce," Lapus stressed. "Owing their own houses will offer them family security and stability," he added.

Under the project, LGU partners will identify and provide land (project site) as their assistance. They will also assign a housing officer to manage LGUs socialized housing programs.

Meanwhile, the Habitat for Humanity and Gawad Kalinga will assist in the construction and provide a preschool for every teacher village. They will also spearhead in the values formation and skills development of the residents.

The total development and construction cost of socialized housing is placed at Php 300,000 at the maximum level. The loan will be payable in equal monthly amortizations at 6 % per annum. DepEd will facilitate loan repayment until the loan is fully paid. The loan maturity is 30 years.

Employee beneficiaries are permanent DepEd employees. Those who do not have an outstanding multi-purpose loan in arrears at the time of the loan and not more than 65 years old at the time of the loan application qualify for the program. Also, qualified are those who will not be more than 70 years old at loan maturity.

Meanwhile, the project excludes teachers and DepEd personnel who have previously availed of housing loan from SSS, GSIS, or pag-IBIG either as principal borrower or co-borrower.

The DepEd Divisions and Regional Offices are mandated to form local housing task force to ensure the efficient and effective pre and post implementation of the housing program in their respective areas.

PRESS RELEASE

Last November, the project went full swing in Daet, Camarines Norte. Consultative meeting, groundbreaking and MOA signing with partners took place. There was a briefing of the first batch of beneficiaries as well. In January, 2009 the processing of teachers' loan documents started.

The initial 150 beneficiaries follow the Green Village concept, in which a farm lot is provided for each beneficiary for planting and gardening.

In Caloocan, DepEd now has a master list of DepEd employee-beneficiaries. With the partner LGUs, the department is scouting for a site for the project. The project is also currently being considered in Murcia, Negros Occidental; Bogo, Cebu; Davao City; Malaybalay, Bukidnon; and Samal City.

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For inquiries on Project Shelter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Projects and Legislative Liaison at 633-7224 or 631-9641.

PRESS RELEASE