

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd all set for Brigada Eskwela

Alongside his appeal to the private sector to be more active in helping our public schools, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus invites all education stakeholders to join DepEd on May 18-22 for the National Schools Maintenance Week or Brigada Eskwela, which is part of a series of preparations for school opening under Oplan Balik Eskwela.

“We request the entire community to join our 44,000 public schools in sprucing up our schools in time for school opening. Civic and non-government organizations, corporations and private individuals are encouraged to go to public schools and extend the needed assistance especially to schools that need help in terms of manpower, and construction and cleaning materials,” said Lapus.

A kick-off caravan leading to Baclaran Central School in Parañaque and Tipas Elementary School in Taguig will begin at the DepEd Central Office, Pasig City on May 18 at 6 am.

Participating private sector companies, government and non-government agencies include Philip Morris Philippines, Petron Corporation and Petron Foundation, San Miguel Foundation and San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corporation, Microsoft Philippines, Manila Electric Company (MERALCO), Megaworld Corporation, Philippine Business for Social Progress and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The DepEd chief noted that “companies, government agencies, groups, and individuals who are interested to participate in Brigada Eskwela may help our public schools from May 18 to 22 and beyond. This is a perfect venue for them to get involved in the affairs of our public schools and help DepEd give our public school students an environment that is more conducive for learning.”

The participation of public schools in Brigada Eskwela jumped from 12,533 school participants in 2003 – or 31% of all public schools – to 44,619 or 100% in 2008.

Brigada Eskwela is part of DepEd’s annual Oplan Balik Eskwela, which aims to prepare public schools for school opening. All education stakeholders are urged to do minor repairs of school furniture and other masonry works, and donate construction and cleaning materials to public schools.

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PRESS RELEASE