

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lapus, DepEd NCR officials meet for Oplan Balik Eskwela

Intensive preparations for school opening are underway as Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus meets today DepEd officials from the National Capital Region (NCR) to discuss all necessary measures to ensure a smooth and orderly opening of classes on June 1, as part of DepEd's annual Oplan Balik Eskwela.

"The sheer size of our student population in Metro Manila requires us at DepEd – with the assistance of our partner agencies – to pay extra attention to the many school opening concerns in the metropolis," said Lapus.

The DepEd chief noted that the department had been successful in the last few years in ensuring the smooth opening of classes through Oplan Balik Eskwela.

He added, "With the strong partnership we have developed and nurtured with all education stakeholders, including our Balik Eskwela convergence partner agencies, we expect to do better this year."

He further stressed that "our preparations are also geared towards increasing student participation in all our schools. It is important for us to get all our children in school, and this begins with making parents realize the value of education."

To remove all barriers to enrollment, school children may choose not to wear school uniforms. School heads are also prohibited from forcibly collecting school fees from enrollees at any time during the school year.

This meeting is the first in a series of preparations DepEd is undertaking to ensure the orderly conduct of school opening under Oplan Balik Eskwela.

**END**

PRESS RELEASE