

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DepEd, DTI conduct pricewatch on school supplies

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on May 24, 2009 will visit Divisoria along Recto where most middleclass parents flock to get cheaper school supplies in preparation for the opening of classes on June 1.

DepEd and DTI officials join the price monitoring team as part of ensuring the smooth opening of classes. The DTI has been monitoring the prices of pad paper, pencil, and composition notebooks.

The Education Chief stressed that DepEd is intensifying its partnership with other government agencies to avert the usual difficulties related to school opening. Keeping the prices of school supplies affordable can also contribute to the decision of parents to send their children to school.

“The cooperation of agencies such as DTI is integral,” said Lapus, “as we need to keep price increase of school supplies at bay.”

Average prices of basic school supplies, such as pad papers for all grade levels, composition notebooks, and pencils have remained stable. Some stores in Divisoria are patronized by parents because they sell at much lower prices. Owing to the difficult times, parents are primarily concerned with being able to buy these school supplies sometimes without paying so much attention about product quality. Parents who buy by bulk can also avail themselves of lower prices.

There has been no report of any possible shortage of school supplies. DepEd is one with DTI in reminding traders against profiteering and reminds them to put price tags on school supplies.

DepEd has gone full force in its Oplan Balik Eskwela to ensure parents that school opening will proceed smoothly.

**END**

PRESS RELEASE