

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 22, 2009**

## **Lapus calls on Brigada Eskwela volunteers to prioritize roof repairs**

Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus appeals to all volunteers who are participating in this year's Brigada Eskwela to allot more time for roof repairs and cleaning of clogged drainages as part of preparations for school opening which coincides with the start of the rainy season.

Lapus said that "part of our preparations for school opening is to ensure that our schools are ready for the rainy season. Brigada Eskwela is a perfect opportunity for our volunteers to fix the roofs and clean areas with stagnant water that are potential breeding grounds of mosquitoes."

He also called on owners of local businesses to donate Galvanized Iron (GI) Sheets that can be used to replace leaking roofs in public schools, and advised volunteers "not to overlook the much-needed roof repairs as most schools focus on school furniture, repainting walls, and sprucing up school gardens."

Aside from fixing or replacing damaged roofs, volunteers can also repaint leaking roofs to prevent the onset of corrosion and to lengthen the service life of existing roofs. DepEd prescribes Forest Green for roofs of school buildings.

Lapus added that "This is not only to prepare our schools for the rainy season, but to avert cases of dengue among our school children. More than using Brigada Eskwela to make our public schools presentable, our number one concern should be the health and safety of our school children."

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.

**END**

**PRESS RELEASE**