

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd meets with NCRPO and MMDA officials for Oplan Balik Eskwela

Department of Education (DepEd) officials and schools division superintendents of Metro Manila recently met with officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP) National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to discuss security and safety issues that may arise during the opening of the school year. This is part of a series of preparations initiated by DepEd for school opening under Oplan Balik Eskwela.

“We are paying extra attention to Metro Manila because of the sheer size of the population. With the assistance of our convergence partners NCRPO and MMDA, we will keep our schools free from crime and reduce traffic problems, especially in the vicinity of our schools,” said DepEd chief Jesli Lapus.

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

The MMDA and NCRPO were represented by Mr. Antonio Pagulayan and Police Chief Supt. Jose Arne de los Santos, respectively. Assistant Secretaries Teresita Inciong and Leticia Pichay represented DepEd on behalf of Secretary Lapus.

“The secretary instructed us to conduct this meeting just before the start of the school year so that our division superintendents can closely coordinate with their respective police officials,” said Inciong. “This is a venue where they can air out security and safety concerns in specific schools in their area.”

Several schools division superintendents requested for increased police visibility, as in the case of Pasay City Division, which reported students crossing the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in the absence of a pedestrian overpass. Some superintendents requested for police and MMDA assistance in relocating stalls of vendors within the vicinity of their schools.

NCRPO officials who were present in the meeting committed to help schools that require police visibility.

Inciong added, “On behalf of Secretary Lapus, we thank our MMDA and NCRPO officials for working with us in ensuring the safety of our children and the security of our public schools.”

Oplan Balik Eskwela is DepEd’s annual nationwide campaign for the preparation of school opening. Through OBE, DepEd seeks to address common problems

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encountered during school opening, provide information, and coordinate with government agencies, communities and other education stakeholders.

“We are closely coordinating with our partner agencies to ensure that this year’s Oplan Balik Eskwela will be successful as in the previous years,” said Lapus. “The PNP-NCRPO and MMDA are two of our most important partners in this effort.”

The Oplan Balik Eskwela Command Center at the DepEd Central Office in Pasig City is open to the public until June 5 to handle walk-in queries and complaints from the public. The public may contact the command center Hotlines 6361663, 6331942, 6340222, 6359817, 6363602, 6364880, 6366550, 6387529, 6387530, 6387531 and 7065332. This center is open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The public may also send their name, address and query through SMS to 09194560027 or text DEPED FDBK name, address and query and send to 2622.

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