

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 28, 2008

## DepEd spearheads flag advocacy campaign

"Let us all join hands to make quality education accessible to all," said Education Secretary Jesli Lapus as he spearheaded today the yearly commemoration of the Araw ng Watawat at Alapan Elementary School in Alapan, Imus Cavite. The event is part of the 110<sup>th</sup> celebration of Philippine's Independence.

'A relevant education that responds to our needs as a people will liberate us from ignorance and poverty," the education chief added.

The Battle of Alapan, Imus, Cavite took place on May 28, 1898. The victory of the Filipino forces against Spain in this decisive battle gave way to the first hoisting of the Philippine flag in Cavite by General Emilio Aguinaldo.

DepEd is spearheading the annual event with various activities in all DepEd divisions together with the National Historical Institute (NHI).

All DepEd offices and both public and private schools are encouraged to display and raise the flag from May 21 to June 30 to support the National Flag Day. Teachers are urged to include in class discussions the events that led to the proclamation of Philippine Independence.

"Respect for the Philippine flag should be inherent in our students as an expression of love for our country," explained Lapus.

Some of the highlights will be the awarding of the 4<sup>th</sup> *Pambansang Gawad sa Uligang Kabataan* for leadership and academic achievements. A three-day conference on Republic Act 8491, or the Philippine Anthem and Flag Code, will also be conducted in cooperation with the NHI, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Tourism, and the Heritage Institute Center.

There will also be a trade fair from June 4 to 8 at SM Megamall, *Musikang Bayan* on June 8 at 5 pm which is a special presentation of Concert at the Park and film showing at the Rizal Park Auditorium from June 8 to 10 at 7pm. On June 10 at the same venue, a Walking Tour in the Park will be conducted by DepEd.

On June 12, simultaneous flag-raising and wreath-laying rites will be held at the Rizal Park monument and other historic sites all over the country.

**END**

PRESS RELEASE