

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd, Bohol LGU build 68 classrooms

More public school buildings are being constructed in Bohol following the signing of an agreement between Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and Bohol Governor Erico Aumentado that set aside some P26.5M for school buildings in the province.

“The partnership,” according to Lapus, “proves that we can plug classroom shortages if we engage community stakeholders who share our vision of making basic education accessible to all.”

Lapus noted that, “With the continuing support of the local government units like Bohol province, the delivery of quality education is within reach.”

DepEd and Bohol provincial government have allotted P13.26M each to construct some 68 classrooms.

The school building construction is ongoing. “The new classrooms will be ready for the upcoming school year and are expected to initially benefit some 6,800 students,” Lapus said.

Lapus added that more school buildings mean more venues to nurture young minds into becoming responsible citizens.

DepEd earmarked some P3.2 billion this year to pump-prime the economy by building schools, thus creating jobs and generating income under its 2009 School Building Program.

The school building program is part of the thrust of President Arroyo to prioritize the construction of school buildings in areas experiencing acute classroom shortage. The government has also set aside funds to rehabilitate school buildings and provide for water and sanitation facilities. Also being undertaken is the construction of school buildings in Southern Philippines under the Support to Philippine Education Reform (SPHERE) Projects.

To date, 1,499 new classrooms, 5,478 new toilets, 2,520 repairs of existing classrooms and 215 repairs of toilets have been allocated constituting 96% of target obligation.

President Gloria Arroyo instructed DepEd to frontload the construction of the school buildings during the long summer vacation period to ensure that these facilities can be used at the start of SY 2009-2010.

END

PRESS RELEASE