

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Full speed ahead on DepEd training

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus reported that some 121,933 teachers, school administrators and other DepEd personnel were given training from January to September 2008 as part of the department's retooling program to further improve the delivery of basic education.

Lapus briefed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the status of DepEd Training Programs which he deemed critical in upgrading the quality of the DepEd human resources and consequently, the quality of classroom instruction.

Capping these training programs is the National Educator's Congress slated on December 2-4, 2008 at the Baguio Teachers' Camp, where those who underwent training are set to present the projects they have developed and implemented.

According to Lapus, "The continuous education of DepEd teaching as well as non-teaching personnel has a direct impact on the kind of public school graduates we produce."

Lapus added in the report to the President that he hopes the training programs, "merit the continuing support of the national government."

Selection of the topics/areas for training was based on the critical thrusts of the Department. These include improvements in core subjects like English, Science and Mathematics – all of which have bearing on the National Achievement Test.

Results of the 2008 National Achievement Test (NAT) for Grade 6 pupils in public schools showed an increase in mean percentage score (MPS) of 5 % over the 2007 results -- from 59.94% to 64.81% in 2008 or an improvement of 8%, bringing the Department closer to its target of 75 % MPS by 2010.

A total of 101,469 or 19% of 531,705 teachers, administrators and supervisors have received training in English, Science and Math including education specialists in the areas. Selected teacher training institutions in both the elementary and secondary levels provided the trainings.

In addition, 7,446 non-specialist-high school teachers finished the Certificate Program on Science and Math to upgrade their knowledge and teaching competencies in these key subject areas.

DepEd also provided training program to 1,111 preschool teachers and 804 day care workers. This is to comply with Executive Order No. 685 or "Expanding the Preschool Coverage to Include Children Enrolled in Day Care Centers" issued in January 2008.

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For the first time, DepEd has also offered professional administration and management training for high level education officials.

DepEd partnered with the Asian Institute of Management to provide Professional Administration and Management Training to 340 superintendents, regional chiefs and selected school heads as well as undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, central chiefs and assistant chiefs.

Lapus tapped SEAMEO INNOTECH (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology) to initially train some 1,600 primary and secondary school heads all over the country under the DepEd eXCELS – Excellence in School Leadership in Southeast Asia.

DepEd-eXCELS is a four-week eSolution package that addresses the need to develop and strengthen the school head's instructional and curricular leadership.

Assistant Secretary for Programs and Projects Teresita Inciong said, "We expect that through these trainings, our school managers may arrive at cost-effective and practical improvements in their respective schools as they address issues of access to education and improvement of NAT scores."

"These will enable school heads to make full use of ICT as a tool for management," she added.

Critical in the success of school is the participation of the community. And the trainings offer school heads approaches, "to connect with the community so they all have ownership of the schools."

She noted, "It is seen in Brigada Eskwela – at the start of the school year – but hopefully would carry over during the rest of the school year."

Crash courses on ICT, Technical Report Writing, Operations and Management of School Canteens also benefited 8,032 or 28% of 28,350 DepEd non-teaching staff including specialists and support staff.

He emphasized that while further education are given to the Department's teaching personnel, parallel efforts should be given to improve the managerial, administrative and technical capability of our support sector."

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