

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd to strengthen SBM in schools

Strengthening the efforts to achieve quality Education For All (EFA) goal by 2015, Education Secretary Armin Luistro has called on all principals to be more pro-active in managing schools.

“The performances of students reflect how well we at the Department of Education perform our job. As leaders in the field of education, we are entrusted with the great responsibility of ensuring that our schools are run efficiently and the students – all 24.5 million of them -- under our care get the best education we can provide,” Luistro said.

Luistro believes that, “the people directly involved and affected by school operations are the best persons to plan, manage and improve the school. For us at DepEd, it is very important to create an environment where all the people involved in the decentralization process not only agree but also commit to make that change happen. Together with correct decentralization policies, we must be able to strengthen all the stakeholders’ capacity to perform their task under a decentralized set-up.” This is the underlying principle in school-based management (SBM).

Through DepEd Memorandum No, 466, series of 2010, the National Association of Public Secondary Schools of the Philippines (NASSPhil), in cooperation with the DepEd-Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE), will hold a National Conference on Enhancing SBM (Sharing of Strategies and Experiences) in Jaro, Iloilo City on a scheduled cluster: For Visayas, it will be on November 26-27; Luzon (including National Capital Region) will be on December 3-4; and Mindanao will have it on December 10-11.

“This activity will be very helpful in reminding our school principals of the importance and extent of their roles as school administrators. School principals’ ability to prepare our students and make them worthy of their future rests on their ability to provide them with quality education today. This is only possible if we are able to create strong, self-sustaining schools through effective and efficient school managers,” explained Luistro.

At present, DepEd is going full throttle in its effort to decentralize education management – a strategy that is expected to improve the department’s operating efficiency and upgrade education quality.

In line with this effort, the department is pushing for the implementation of SBM, a key component of the department’s Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA). BESRA is a widely-accepted reform initiative which recognizes that schools, as the key providers of education, should continuously improve by being empowered to make informed and localized decisions based on their own unique needs.

“Under SBM program, school heads are at liberty to explore ways by which they can run the school most beneficial to the school community. It gives school heads and their teachers a wide berth to create linkages with the local

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government and the private sector and be able to tap them for the improvement of the local school,” Luistro furthered.

The objective of the conference is to promote the sharing of exceptional, innovative and promising practices among the participants. It also aims to enhance the leadership skills of school principals with the framework of SBM and to provide networking opportunities among top innovations.

“Through SBM, we are setting into motion one seamless machinery wherein each key player—the school, the parents, the local government and the private sector— becomes one vital cog that enables the entire system to run smoothly. That is, to unleash the principal’s untapped power to inspire the community decision-makers and make them stakeholders to make quality education possible—and accessible to all,” noted Luistro.

The participants to this conference are the chiefs, secondary education division (SED), public secondary school principals, secondary school head teachers and teachers-in-charge (TICs) with designation as officer-in-charge (OIC) of the school. The Schools Division/City Superintendents (SDSs) are requested to choose one secondary school principal to present a division paper on SBM that has a great impact on school performance.

“Successful decentralization and SBM will not only make us more effective, they will produce the best results for the basic education sector in terms of learning and management. As proven by many success stories here and abroad, an empowered school can undertake dramatic improvements by generating support from the community. And school principals can take the lead in establishing a viable working relationship between their school and the community,” Luistro said.

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