

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lapus calls for a stronger educators' academy

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus seeks legislation to expand and strengthen the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) to meet the demands of the DepEd human resource requirement.

NEAP is DepEd's lead agency in designing and implementing human resource development programs for DepEd central and field offices.

"Our teachers, principals and executives can be better equipped to improve our public school system if we have a retooled and stronger NEAP," Lapus said.

DepEd has already drafted a proposed law for NEAP to have greater responsibility and accountability on resources/financial management including its generation, utilization, recording and reporting. It also calls for the creation of a new organizational structure and staffing pattern based on its mandate, functions and services.

Lapus said the legislation will make NEAP more effective as it will not only offer short term but also long term courses and programs to develop teaching competencies, management and leadership excellence.

He noted that, "NEAP will be run like a corporation with its own Board of Trustees representing the public and private education sectors."

He cited the need to increase the number of capable and required NEAP personnel. It also seeks to have its own human resource training and development fund and the hiring power to source its own personnel.

"Its being autonomous in certain areas will afford NEAP to deliver more timely and cost-effective services," he stressed.

"It is sad to note that a high school under a Principal II is more autonomous than the Academy," said NEAP Executive Director Lorna Dig-Dino.

She explained, "The dependence of the Academy on the Central Office on matters of finance and resources normally delay training programs. If NEAP will be given responsibility and accountability on resource and finance management, the delivery of services will be more effective and more efficient."

Some 1,140 district superintendents were trained by NEAP on division education development planning and related topics.

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NEAP also trained 2,600 principals in such areas as school-based management practices, school improvement planning, instructional leadership, bridging leadership, and simplified record keeping.

NEAP experienced numerous renaming and reshaping through the years. From Baguio Vacation Normal School, it became the National Learning Center in 1984 and the National Education Learning Center (NELC) in 1985. The renaming to NEAP in 1992 included various amendments in its structure and responsibilities.

NELC helped improve school curricula and the development of instructional materials. It provided training to public school teachers as well as improved the management capabilities of superintendents, supervisors and administrative officers.

When it was renamed NEAP by virtue of Administrative Order 282 of 1992, it served as DepEd's training institution that responds to the demands for professional competency as well as management and leadership excellence in the education community.

Currently, NEAP Central Office is located in Baguio City. The proposed legislation likewise provides an avenue for the Academy to perform efficient and effective capacity building as it takes on a new role of providing technical assistance to the 17 learning centers in the DepEd regional offices.

The bill will be sponsored by Congressman Del R. Reyes and Senator Chiz Escudero.

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