

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Classes returning to normal; make-up classes on

Classes in public schools in eight regions battered by typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng are slowly returning to normal.

Of the more than three hundred schools used as evacuation centers, only 103 remain partially occupied by evacuees and teachers have started to conduct classes in available rooms.

From more than 18,600 families, only about 11,400 remain in public schools.

Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng caused a total of P749.8M and P481.8M worth of damages respectively. The damage estimates cover the cost of repair, rehabilitation of classrooms and the replacement of textbooks, instructional materials, computers, equipment and other school properties.

More than 2,500 schools were affected by the succession of weather disturbances in September and October.

Meanwhile, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus issued directives in the conduct of make-up classes for schools affected by recent typhoons in Luzon.

School heads of the affected elementary and high schools in Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, CAR and NCR are tasked to prepare and implement a plan for holding make-up classes to compensate for the school days suspended due to the calamities.

In related development, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Esperanza Cabral expressed her appreciation to the two-month salary donation of Secretary Lapus for the families and individuals affected by the recent calamities.

In mapping out the make-up sessions, the DepEd chief said schools should prioritize the Saturdays of October, November and December, excluding those during Christmas break.

These schools can also use the midyear break (October 26-30, 2009), which is originally slated for assessment and teachers' in-service training.

DepEd maintains its policy that concerned schools will have to hold make-up classes to compensate for the lost schooldays.

Lapus added that schools can conduct modularized instruction which would allow students to undertake studies at home to make up for the loss in the class hours.

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Through DepEd's Modified In-School/Out-of-School Approach, schoolchildren who are unable to attend school can study their lessons through modules that run parallel to lessons taught in school.

Division offices will keep track of the lost schooldays in the schools under their jurisdiction and the holding of make-up classes to ensure that the minimum number of schooldays in the school calendar is preserved.

"They will report these to their respective regional offices at the end of the school year," explained the DepEd chief.

Lapus noted that schools and divisions which have not been severely affected by the recent calamities can undertake the midyear break as scheduled.

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