

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd, COMELEC prepare for the October 25 polls

As the October 25, 2010 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Elections draw nearer, the Department of Education and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) conducted an orientation on COMELEC General Instructions for the Board of Election Tellers (BET) and Barangay Board of Canvassers as public school teachers will again serve as chairmen and members of BET.

DepEd, one of the government agencies actively involved in the country's elections, prepared its administrative and legal officers, and other DepEd personnel in their duties and responsibilities in the DepEd central, regional, and division election task forces through an orientation given by COMELEC Personnel Department Director Adolfo Ibañez.

"Once again DepEd and COMELEC are called to an election duty to solidify the foundation of our democratic society – the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabatan elections. This is an important political exercise because our law gives so much power to our barangay and to our youth. It is therefore important that we also give this election a very special attention," said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

Undersecretary Alberto Muyot leads the department on matters related to the coming elections.

"These Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections on October 25 are critical to the country's drive for greater stability and accelerated economic growth. Its success depends to a significant extent on how well we will carry out the critical tasks that have entrusted to DepEd," said Muyot.

In its Memorandum 449 series 2010, DepEd, as practiced, will set up an Election Task Force Operation Center which will be the operations hub that will monitor the conduct of the elections. This will ensure that teachers are provided with and/or referred to adequate information, technical, and legal assistance in the course of the performance of their duties. This will also serve as DepEd's institutional link to volunteer organizations and individuals in order to provide close horizontal and vertical coordination among DepEd, COMELEC, and partner agencies involved in elections.

The task force will also complement the other government agencies' effort for an honest, orderly, and peaceful election. It will be headed by Undesecretaries Alberto Muyot and Rizalino Rivera.

The 2010 DepEd Election task Force Operation Center will be established in the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City starting 1pm of October 24 and ends on 12NN of October 26.

Muyot added that, "as we always say, we put teachers' welfare and protection paramount priority. Their tasks as molders of the youth are already challenging, hence, we should assure them that they will be properly taken cared of as they perform this special duty." **END**