

## PRESS RELEASE

**Compostela LGU builds more classrooms**

Responding to the call of the Department of Education for local government units to invest in education, Compostela Valley Governor Arturo T. Uy presented to Education Secretary Armin Luistro three completed two-storey, eight classroom buildings in the municipalities of Compostela, Maragusan and Monkayo funded by the provincial government.

During the turn-over ceremonies, Luistro lauded the efforts of the provincial government in addressing education resource gaps in the province.

“I am pleased with how the provincial government, through the leadership of Gov. Uy, has prioritized education and released funds for classroom construction,” said Luistro.

Since Uy took office in July 2007, education has been the focus of the provincial government.

“To ensure that we are able to urgently respond to the education need of our constituents, we made sure that classroom buildings are constructed in areas where they are badly needed,” said Gov. Uy.

Uy organized *Task Force Paaralan* (**P**angangailangan ng paaralan **Ay Ating Responsibilidad, Alamin Lahat at Aksyonan Natin**) to assess the condition, needs, and concerns of all schools and teachers in the province. Through this project, the provincial government provided different schools with 6,716 arm chairs/school desks, 1,482 sets of tables and chairs for teachers, 5,080 kiddy chairs, 2,328 plastic chairs, 80 drum and bugle sets, and other equipment like computer sets, karaoke, refrigerators, and rondalla items.

To date, the provincial government has already funded eight classroom buildings worth P44M. Apart from the provincial initiative, Uy also initiated the construction of 54 additional classroom buildings in the province in partnership with the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Luistro has called on other local governments to follow the lead of Compostela Valley saying, “initiatives from the local governments that push for the improvement of the education system must be replicated.”

Establishing a covenant with the local government units is among the ten-point education agenda of President Benigno Aquino III. This is why the department pushes for stronger ties with local governments in order to address the resource gaps in education.

“We will continue to seek the commitment of local governments to help build classrooms for public schools. We will see how the Special Education Fund is being spent and recommend how local government executives can best utilize it to serve the interest of public schools.” explained Luistro.

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For DepEd, such partnership will address the perennial shortage of classrooms, school buildings, school furniture, textbooks and sanitation and water facilities.

**END**

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