

PRESS RELEASE

Clean up schools, DepEd urges communities

The Department of Education is urging the public to help in the clean up of schools that were used as polling places in the last elections in preparation for the opening of classes next month.

"I enjoin the community residents to do their share in the clean up as schools are the collective responsibility of the communities it serves, said Education Secretary Mona Valisno,

The DepEd has set the opening of classes for School Year 2010-2011 on June 15, 2010, or less than a month away.

"It is unfortunate that despite our "Clean Schools, Clean Elections policy," many of the politicians plastered our schools and the places around it with all types of campaign materials – some of our schools actually look like a jungle of tarps and posters from the outside," said Education Secretary Mona Valisno.

She also joined the calls of environmental groups for politicians to dispense with the thank you tarpaulins so as not to add to the volume of campaign trash generated during the campaign period. "The time for campaigning has ended, now its clean-up time," she said.

Valisno also directed all schools to take down or remove all signages or signs within the school premises that show commercial advertisements, words of sponsorships or endorsements of any nature.

"The DepEd has a long standing policy that prohibits commercialization of our schools through endorsements or accreditation of goods or services. Thus, all schools must comply," she said.

Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya, DepEd Spokesperson, said that Valisno issued DepEd Order No. 37, s. 2010 reiterating long-established policy against advertisements or endorsements in schools of any kind.

Malaya said that school authorities have until the end of the month to comply since the Order specifically gave school authorities 30 days from receipt to comply with the directive. Schools were directed to report to the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs their compliance with the Order.

He added that Undersecretary Franklin Sunga was also directed to initiate disciplinary action against schools who continue to violate the Order.

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