

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd joins campaign against poverty

Believing that education is the solution to fight poverty, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus enjoins the whole education community to hold activities that highlight the celebration of the International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty on October 17-23.

The theme of the celebration is “Stand United, Fight Poverty.”

As the main focus of the observance, Lapus ordered all public school officials to hold programs in support of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which include the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the achievement of universal primary education, improvement of maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS diseases.

“Let us celebrate this international event on a very practical way such as community conduct of vegetable gardening, tree planting, livelihood training programs and provision of social services for the underprivileged,” Lapus said.

Other activities the schools may undertake are the holding of remedial classes in Science, English, and Mathematics.

As part of the celebration, DepEd will also enter into an agreement with non-government organizations and government organizations on child sponsorship program. Through the Adopt-A-School Program, DepEd partners will be mobilized for the rehabilitation of school buildings and classrooms.

“Education provides life-long learning that can address the age-old problem of poverty and ignorance. That is why we ask all our schools to actively participate in the observance of this important event,” Lapus said.

Schools nationwide will also conduct a press conference on the MDG to generate public awareness and draw in more adherents to the campaign. This is in addition to the conduct of essay writing and poster-making contests among students using the slogan as a theme.

Since 1997, the Philippines has been joining other countries in the observance of the special day. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared in 2004 every October 17-23 as the “National Week for Overcoming Extreme Poverty”.

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