

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd works with COA on reforms

The Department of Education (DepEd) has been working with the Commission on Audit (COA) to address the latter's Consolidated Annual Audit Report which was released way back in May 2008.

"We are grateful to COA for providing us the opportunity to address these concerns on the utilization of resources. We at the DepEd feel that by addressing these challenges we can further improve the implementation of our 'Education for All' thrust," said Joel Lacsamana, Senior Policy Adviser of DepEd.

The report on DepEd for 2007 contains the state auditor's report, audited financial statements, and observations by COA with corresponding recommendations.

Prior to the release of the 2007 report by COA, DepEd officials have acted upon the recommendations stated in earlier reports.

DepEd has acted upon COA's observations on ICT and multimedia equipment, school buildings and furniture, textbooks, and the Food for School Program.

On school buildings and furniture, DepEd is seeking an amendment of the existing Roxas Law which states that 50% of the amount for Capital Outlay (includes equipment, buildings, non-structural improvements such as drainage, landscaping, sanitary sewers) should be allocated based on student population; 40% for districts with classroom shortages, with the remaining 10% as contingency fund.

DepEd proposes to allocate 80% of Capital Outlay for districts with classroom shortages, and 10% based on student population. The remaining 10% will comprise the contingency fund.

On COA's observations on DepEd's ICT and multimedia equipment, DepEd has been evaluating existing media equipment, and has been finalizing guidelines for the computerization program, specifically on the number of computers to be distributed and identification of school beneficiaries.

DepEd's Textbook Exchange Program is a response to COA's observation on excess textbooks. Excess textbook titles are shared by regions to those that need them.

DepEd is closely working with the National Food Authority to monitor the Food for School Program which was also included in the COA Report for 2007.

“We feel that DepEd has been recording gains in its commitment to make quality basic education accessible to as many learners as possible in the public school system. We welcome inputs from all sectors both in the government and the private sector to keep us on the right track,” Lacsamana said.

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