

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAT results show continuous improvement

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus reports that the percentage increase of 21.36 percent from 2006 to 2009 in the National Achievement Test (NAT) indicates a steady improvement in primary education in the country's public school system.

"The investments we poured in to improve learning outcomes are now giving dividends," Lapus said.

Lapus added that the 2009 NAT showed a mark improvement in Mean Percentage Score (MPS) of only 66.33 percent from 54.66 percent in 2006 or an improvement of 11.67%.

Percentage gains were also noted in all subject areas from 2006 to 2009 with Mathematics (28.02%) and Science (27.50%) having the biggest improvement.

Lapus will award pupils, schools, divisions, and regions which showed top performance in the examination given by the department in 2009. The awarding of NAT 2009 top achievers will be held at the SEAMEO INNOTECH in Quezon City.

"The improvements we see in the performance of our students are the fruits of the commitment and hard work of all stakeholders in education --- the whole DepEd family, the community and the private sector," Lapus explained.

The NAT was taken by some 1.76 million pupils from 31,196 public and 2,386 private elementary schools nationwide.

NAT is an annual examination administered to public and private school students throughout the country to determine their achievement level, strengths and weaknesses in key subject areas. It covered English, Science, Math, Filipino and HEKASI with 40 test items each for a total of 200 test items.

From 2006-2009, the Department has put more resources on human resource development especially on teacher training programs.

DepEd has embarked on intervention programs aimed at improving key performance indicators in basic education. These include the Every Child a Reader Program, continuing teacher training in teaching English, priority in hiring teachers who have majored in Math, Science and English, provision of one book each for every student in core subjects, and food for school.

It has also created Project TURN or Turning Around Low Performance in English, which focused on assisting the low performing schools in terms of textbooks, instructional materials and pedagogical strategies.

Moreover, low performing schools without school heads were given plantilla items as well as teacher items.

DepEd's intensified partnership with the private sector through the Adopt-A-School also contributed to the improvement of learning environment. This also translates to higher achievement levels.

Some PhP12 Billion worth of private sector assistance have been coursed through Adopt-A-School since it was relaunched by Lapus in 2006.

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