

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Lapus: Hold simple Christmas party

Education Secretary has called on the whole DepEd community – the public schools and DepEd Central and field offices to make Christmas celebration simple yet meaningful.

“The difficult economic times call for austerity and simplicity,” stressed Lapus. He noted that the severe difficulties during the past months brought about by the global financial crisis and by the series of typhoons have tested the Filipinos’ resiliency.

Lapus added, “Much suffering has been experienced, but it should not stop us from ending the year with the spirit unbowed and full of hope.”

He instructed schools or offices which decide to forego Christmas parties to consider donating the savings to relief assistance for families still reeling from the destruction caused by recent calamities.

In DepEd Order 114 series of 2009, the DepEd chief issued guidelines in holding Christmas celebration which specified that contributions for celebrations in schools or offices whether in cash or kind should be strictly voluntary. Moreover, gift-giving should be guided by the spirit of sharing and should not lead to extravagant spending.

Disruption of academic activities in schools and delivery of departmental services should likewise be minimized. Christmas break in public schools will begin on Saturday, December 19, 2009. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2010.

According to the DepEd Order, decorations should be simple, inexpensive and to the extent possible, produced by students and staff. Meanwhile, any violation of the guidelines shall be subject to administrative action.

**END**

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