

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Volunteer support made DepEd's Brigada Eskwela successful

The community spirit of volunteerism or bayanihan is very strong in Brigada Eskwela, a nationwide initiative led by the Department of Education (DepEd) that engages the all volunteers to help prepare public schools for school opening.

DepEd Secretary Mona Valisno said, "On behalf of the department, I salute the volunteers whose selfishness and willingness to help prepare our schools for school opening have made Brigada Eskwela successful for the past seven years."

In 2009 alone, over seven million volunteers have joined Brigada Eskwela. Various donors particularly community-based local businesses have given some PhP3.7 Billion worth of donations-in-kind to our public schools during Brigada Eskwela Week.

From 2003 to 2008, some PhP9.5 Billion worth of savings in terms of Maintenance, Operating and Other Expenses (MOOE) have been posted due to the assistance from volunteers who donated their time to clean school grounds and do minor repairs of school furniture.

To maximize the existing partnership between the schools and their respective communities, the department is implementing this year Brigada Eskwela Plus, which was launched during the incumbency of Secretary Jesli Lapus.

Beyond ensuring the preparedness of public schools for school opening, this scaled-up initiative shall engage the community year-round to get more kids in school, and encourage out of school youth to go back to school. It also aims to contribute to the improvement of academic performance of public schoolchildren.

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