

DIR. BORGONIA REMINDS PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO ABIDE WITH DEPED POLICIES

Regional Director Recaredo G. Borgonia enjoined all private schools to abide with the DepED policies when he spoke to 505 education leaders and managers representing the private schools of the 19 schools divisions in the region, during the Regional Conference of School Heads/Registrars of all Private Schools and Division Supervisors and in-charge of private schools in Region VII held at the Pavilion, DepED ECOTECH Center, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City on July 5, 2011.

Dir. Borgonia pointed out that private schools should operate in accordance with the rules and regulations provided by law. He emphasized that applications for permit to operate and renewal of permit to operate should be submitted to the Regional Office on the dates specified in DepED Orders and Memoranda. He stressed that all private schools need to comply with the required documents to avoid problems from cropping up in the future. "Compliance with the law protects the administration of private schools", he said.

Accredited private schools, on the other hand, should be supervised by DepED, even though they have the competence to manage their own operations. He informed the private school heads to submit reports to the Regional Office through the Division Offices.

Queries on teachers' hiring, parents' refusal of sending their children to school and other significant concerns were responded to during the open forum with Dir. Borgonia.

For school year 2011-2012, DepED Region VII has subsidized 56% of students in private schools through the Government Assistance for Students and Teachers of Private Education (GASTPE) Program.

Dir. Carmelita T. Dulangon, Asst. Regional Director, underscored Sec. 23 of the Private School Manual which points out the authority of the Secretary of Education to supervise the management and operation of private schools in the provision of basic education to all. Dir. Dulangon reminded the Division Supervisors in-charge of Private Schools to perform their duties as representatives of the Secretary as contained in the Manual. "No schools offering basic education are over and above DepED", she stated.

Moreover, Dr. Dulangon is hopeful that the data on enrolment in the private schools will help increase the participation rate in Region VII. She further reminded all private schools to produce Students-Parents Handbook/Manual.

Dr. Milagros Gabia, Chief of Policy, Planning and Research Division (PPRD) reported that as of this date, a total of 1,290 private schools in the region are providing basic education to 213,189 children (Kindergarten- 35,226; Elementary- 67,126; Secondary- 110,837. Out of 1,290 private schools, the Regional Office has granted Government Recognition to 750 or 58.17%; Temporary Permit to 334 or 25.89%; while remaining 15.97% or 206 private schools still have their application on process.

Dr. Marcial P. Degamo, Chief of the Quality Assurance and Accountability Division (QAAD) facilitated the conference. **LBA**