

DEPED AND DDB PUSH STUDENTS TO JOIN “BARKADA”

The Department of Education, together with the Dangerous Drugs Board, the country’s lead agency on drug abuse prevention, encourages students to join a nationwide “barkada” movement against drugs.

Dubbed as “Barkada Kontra Droga”, this flagship program of the Dangerous Drugs Board is now being institutionalized. This is a peer-based program designed as a preventive education and information strategy to counter the dangers and ill-effects of drug abuse.

Reversing the negative connotation of “barkada”, the DDB utilizes this concept to empower individuals, especially the youth, to be catalysts within their peer groups in advocating a healthy and drug-free lifestyle through involvement in positive wholesome activities.

As part of this drive, DDB and DepED conducted a series of Orientation Seminars on “Barkada Kontra Droga” and Life Skills Training for National Drug Education Program (NDEP) Coordinators. This was participated in by Division NDEP Coordinators, Heads of Health and Nutrition Section, and Division Nurse In-charge.

The initiative aims to increase the participants’ awareness and knowledge on the nature and extent of the drug abuse problem, assist schools in establishing BKD chapters, promote drug-free lifestyle and life skills approach to drug prevention, and formulate activity plans on the integration of BKD in the schools’ program. **CLMD**