

## **DepED 7 intensifies QMS at all levels**

This School Year 2011-2012, the Department of Education (DepED) Region VII has continuously strengthened its monitoring and evaluation scheme through the intensification of Quality Management System (QMS) at the Regional, Division, and School levels.

Director Recaredo G. Borgonia has engaged the Regional and Division education leaders to enforce the full implementation of the QMS to improve the delivery of basic education services. The ultimate goal is the provision of quality basic education to all our learners.

“All our efforts will be for the benefit of our children”, Dir. Borgonia declared. He then articulated that in order to ensure quality services, there is the dire need to set up quality assurance and accountability measures through the Quality Management System (QMS).

The establishment of QMS is in line with Administrative Order (AO) No. 161 "Institutionalizing Quality Management Systems in Government as amended through Executive Order No. 605 "Institutionalizing the Structures, Mechanisms, and Standards to Implement the Government Quality Management Program". These Orders direct all government agencies and government-owned and/or controlled corporations to implement and institutionalize a national quality management system as a strategy to promote transparency and accountability in governance, provide a framework for assessing quality system performance, establish public service quality standards, and recognize quality excellence among the government organizations.

The issuance of DepED Order No. 44, s. 2010 on "Adoption of the KRT 3: Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework (QAAF) paved the way of the installation of Quality Management System (QMS) in the department to ensure delivery of quality basic education. QMS is a system of processes and tools to be applied, so that desired knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values of the students can be attained at some expected level.

Under the restructuring of the Regional Offices piloted in Regions VI, VII, and VIII by Project STRIVE 2, Region VII has gone far in empowering the Quality Assurance and Accountability Division (QAAD). The QAAD is commissioned to ensure compliance with standards of the delivery of quality basic education services. Assessing, monitoring and evaluating the Region and Schools Division's performances are its core function. The results of this M&E will be the basis of informed decision-making and guide policy directions in the Region and Divisions towards continuous improvement in *the delivery of quality basic education*.

The restructuring of the Regional and Division organization is one of the support mechanisms expressed in Republic Act 9155 on the Governance of Basic Education Act of 1982. Republic Act 9155 clearly defines and specifies the principle of shared governance as the management model in the delivery of quality basic education to attain Education for All (EFA) 2015 goals. The functional areas and the differentiated roles of each level of management (National, Regional, Division, and School) have been clearly defined in this Act.

Meanwhile, the Regional Office has fasttracked the performances of Schools Divisions vis-a-vis the implementation of its programs and projects through the Regional Field Technical Assistance Teams (RFTATs).

RFTATs are fielded once in every month to conduct Monitoring and Evaluation activities and provide technical assistance to personnel in their assigned Schools Divisions. **LBA**