

The Department of Education (DepEd) is urging the public to support and participate in “Brigada Eskwela”, as the nation gears for the opening of classes on June 13.

DepEd Undersecretary Mario Deriquito made the call during a press briefing on Friday at DepEd Central Office in Pasig City.

”Ang edukasyon ay responsibilidad hindi lamang ng DepEd kundi ng buong pamayanan. Etong Brigada Eskwela ay isang konkretong pagkakataon na ibinibigay natin sa ating mga kababayan na tumulong (Education is a responsibility not only of DepEd but also the entire nation. National Schools Maintenance is a concrete opportunity offered to citizens in order to help out,)” said Deriquito.

”Pumunta lamang (kayo) sa pinakamalapit na pampublikong paaralan (Just go to the nearest public school),” he added.

This week-long event from May 30 to June 4 encourages all education stakeholders to participate and contribute their time, effort, and resources to this school maintenance effort in ensuring that all public school facilities are ready for the start of the school year.

Deriquito cited that this nationwide voluntary effort has been able to mobilize a total of 35.6 million volunteers since 2011. Of this number, 8.7 million volunteered last year.

For in-kind donations, the DepEd official said Brigada Eskwela has generated a total of Php11.9 billion worth of resources. One third of that was generated only last year.

Brigada Eskwela is one of the best practices for public-private partnership and volunteerism, noted Deriquito.