

STATEMENT FOR MEDIA
18 February 2019

DEPED HIGHLIGHTS MAKAKALIKASAN CORE VALUE THROUGH VARIOUS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS

The Department of Education (DepEd) strengthens and reinforces the integration of environmental education in the elementary and high school curriculum through the introduction of several programs in accordance with one of its core values, *Makakalikasan*.

The revival of the School Inside a Garden, or SIGA, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) aims establish and maintain a mostly indigenous and endemic flowering colorful plant garden in public elementary and secondary schools nationwide. The program aims to transform school campuses as gardens of medium-sized flowering and colorful native trees and plants. In three to five years, the cherry blossoms of Japan, United States and other countries will find competition with the SIGA in the Philippines.

DepEd has also initiated the Search for Campus Heritage Trees where schools are enjoined to identify and submit heritage trees found within their school campuses for inclusion in a nationwide inventory.

The department is correcting earlier news items that erroneously mention the planting of heritage trees. Campus Heritage Trees are defined as native and endemic Philippine tree species that are living and healthy, found within school campuses and in their immediate surroundings; have a minimum girth of 100cm; and have significant educational, social, cultural, historical, or aesthetic value. Selected Campus Heritage Trees will be given tree markers identifying them as such and will be provided protection against danger from damage and displacement due to construction and other related activities.