

## Spanish government donates buildings to DepEd

by ALEXANDER VILLAFANIA  
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Spanish Ambassador Luis Arias turned over a first batch of school buildings to the Department of Education (DepEd) as part of the Improvement of the Quality of Primary Education (IQPE) bilateral agreement to improve education in the Bicol and Caraga regions.

The three buildings, in Albay, Sorsogon, and Camarines Sur, are constructed to be resistant

to the powerful typhoons that usually hit this part of the country.

The new schools' education administrators will also receive school-based management grants worth P50,000, reading proficiency training programs and implementation and monitoring tools.

The IQPE is a three-year project that will end in 2010. AECID has set 2.7 million euros (P179 million) for the project.

In a statement, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the new school buildings and the teaching materials received from the Spanish government would greatly strengthen the management of schools in the region.

"With assistance from our Spanish friends, we hope to produce independent learners who are ready for the rigors of high school, and eventually, for real life," Lapus said. ■

## Oxford group says RP recorded its best economic performance in 30 years under Arroyo

THE Philippines recorded its best economic performance in 30 years during the Arroyo administration.

Thus reported the Oxford Business Group (OBG) which culled its data from the research conducted by the Punongbayan and Araullo Associates, a member of Grant Thornton.

"Under the Arroyo administration in 2007, the Philippine economy experienced its best performance in three decades, recording 7.3 percent GDP growth," said the OBG in its website.

OBG report that "annual public spending, which was up 10 percent, was an important contributor to this outcome.

"More importantly, however, was the government's accommodating policy stance and targeted initiatives that fostered an increase in private consumption as well as the burgeoning of a service sector," noted the OBG whose publication "offers extensive, independent, unbiased and accurate intelligence on 34 countries and is an ideal reference guide for those looking at investment prospects."

The Oxford Report also stressed that "while the Philippines has not been immune to the effects of the global financial crisis and economic slowdown,

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