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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

AIDE MEMOIRE

06 April 2021

27 May 2021 (Updated)

**UPDATE ON THE
VIRTUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING (VINSET)
AND DEPED COMMONS**

I. Virtual Inset Participation and Coverage

The Virtual *'In-Service Training (INSET) for Public School Teachers'* is the Department of Education's (DepEd) biggest online user activity to date. The **online training - conducted for 5 days, from March 15 to March 19, 2021** was live streamed on DepEd Facebook, YouTube, and StreamYard platforms. It was organized by DepEd's Information and Communications Technology Service – Educational Technology Unit (ICTS-EdTech) under the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA.)

475,115 participants nationwide were certified after taking part in the virtual INSET (VINSET) live sessions.

The combined views from the different streaming platforms was recorded at 4,968,659 total reach on the first day of the event, which included public and private school teachers, college and university professors, and college education students. The figure is expected to continue to rise since the sessions are also constructed in an online asynchronous format. It will close on May 8, 2021.

Participation in the INSET is voluntary.

Teachers' engagement and training at their own pace is encouraged, hence, the necessary training materials are both uploaded to the DepEd Commons and the DepEd Learning Management System (DLMS). Training materials feature discussions on integration and utilization of DepEd Commons, DepEd TV, DepEd Learning Management System (DLMS), and Open Educational Resources (OERs) among others.



Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

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Figure 1 below shows the number of VINSET participants per Region (based on claimed digital certificates). **Top 3 Regions in terms of number of participants are Region 4A, Region 7, and NCR** (highlighted in the table.) The number of participants to the Professional Development Learning Management System (PD-LMS) is also included in the chart below.

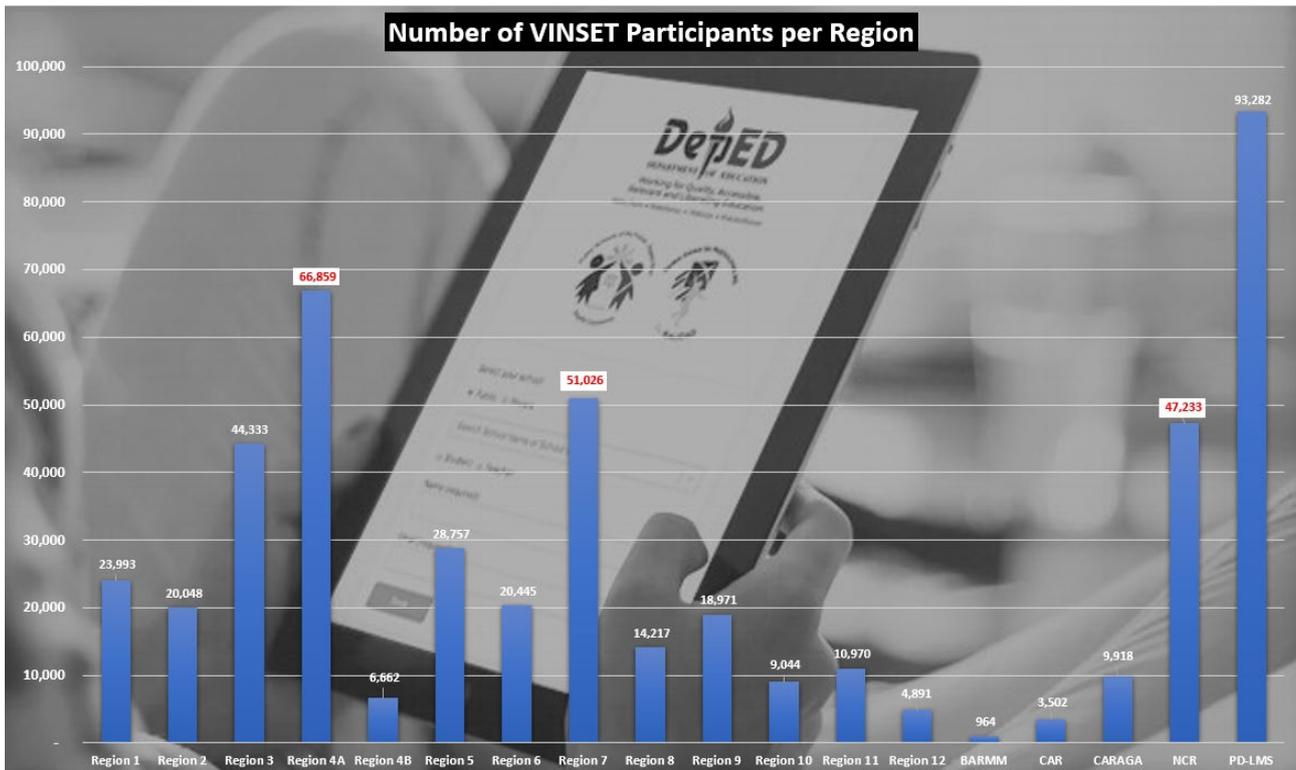


Figure 1. Number of VINSET Participants per Region

A variety of topics were covered throughout the 5-day VINSET:

Date	Topics
Day 1: March 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DepEd TV Report ▪ DepEd LMS Report ▪ DepEd Commons Report ▪ DepEd OERs ▪ Educational Technology Unit (ETU) Future Programs ▪ Effective Delivery of Synchronous/Asynchronous Teaching ▪ Microsoft Education ▪ DepEd ETUlay* ▪ Google Certification
Day 2: March 16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective Utilization of Multimedia Materials: DepEd TV, Video Editing Techniques in Producing Quality Video Lessons ▪ A New Normal: The Critical Role of Assessment in Online Learning ▪ OER Readiness Review Criteria



Day 3: March 17, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals ▪ Poster Design in Adobe Photoshop ▪ Overview of R.A. 10173 - The Data Privacy Act of 2012 ▪ Solving People Puzzle
Day 4: March 18, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interactive Instructional Materials ▪ ManyChat: Delivering Online-Offline Learning (McDoo) ▪ ETUlay* - Breakthrough in Teaching ▪ Mobile Apps in Education
Day 5: March 19, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital Poetry: A Collaborative Performance Project ▪ Technology Integration and Instructional Materials Development/Preparation in English Language ▪ Hour of Code (Programming for Women) ▪ Creating Interactive Materials Using Scratch Animation

* ETUlay is an Educational Technology Bridging Program of ICTS-EdTech

II. Increase in the Number of DepEd Commons Users

Following its successful launch on March 17, 2020, DepEd Commons serves as the online education delivery platform of DepEd where learning resources, online review materials and Open Educational Resources (OERs) made by public school teachers are available, easily accessed and where resources can be modified without having to re-print modules when such modules necessitate revisions or improvements. DepEd Commons promotes and sustains to support the teaching and learning process during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, it is a convenient distance learning modality that can be accessed free of data charge in cooperation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Smart, PLDT, and Globe.

The link to access DepEd Commons is commons.deped.gov.ph.

The proposal to produce quality OERs made by teachers and make the materials available online was first put forward in the second quarter of 2019, prior to the COVID 19 outbreak, as part of the Department's response to UNESCO's 2012 Paris OER Declaration. The closing of face-to-face classes at the start of the enhanced community quarantine prompted the OUA and ICTS to immediately make live the DepEd Commons platform even if it has not yet been fully completed at that time.

Last year, the **DepEd Commons quickly became fourth in the overall trending Google searches (2020)**. It also **ranked number 1 in the most searched topic under the education category in the Philippines**.

As shown in Figure 2, the number of users of DepEd Commons increased significantly in April to May 2020 when it was launched as an alternative platform during the 4th quarter of school year 2019-2020, enabling teachers and learners to finish the school year with the help of the platform.



However, when the school year 2020-2021 began, the emphasis was given on learning modules being printed and distributed. **The use of alternative learning platforms such as DepEd Commons were understated and quite downplayed - despite its accessibility to learners with available gadgets/devices, ready internet access and the whitelisting of the platform by Smart, PLDT and Globe making it free even if users have no load.**

There was a dearth of orientation and inclusion of these platforms as part of instructional implements of Blended Learning to Principals, School Heads and Teachers. They were not oriented and instructed that somehow prevailed that the only or best way to go is printed learning modules.

Then the concerns on the printed learning materials surfaced such as:

- funds for printing
- funds for distributing
- distribution of printed materials to schools
- distribution of printed materials to students
- delayed printed materials (unused)
- errors in the printed materials, that needed to be printed again

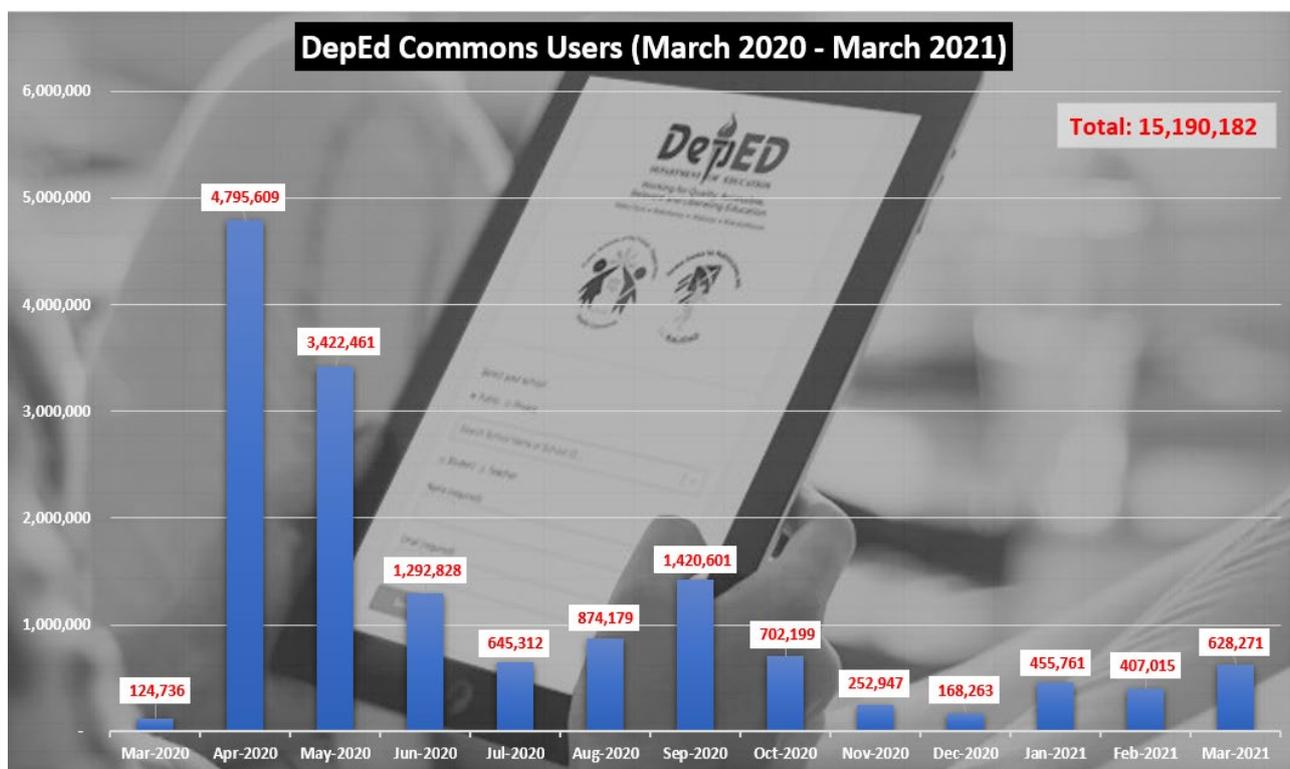


Figure 2. Number of monthly users of DepEd Commons from March 2020 to March 2021

Increase of Users During 2021 VINSET Week

The **number of DepEd Commons 'unique users' leaped from 9,814,486 to 10,239,947** during the 2021 VINSET as educators and others grabbed the



opportunity to explore and enhance their knowledge on Educational Technology (EdTech) through the week-long series of webinars.

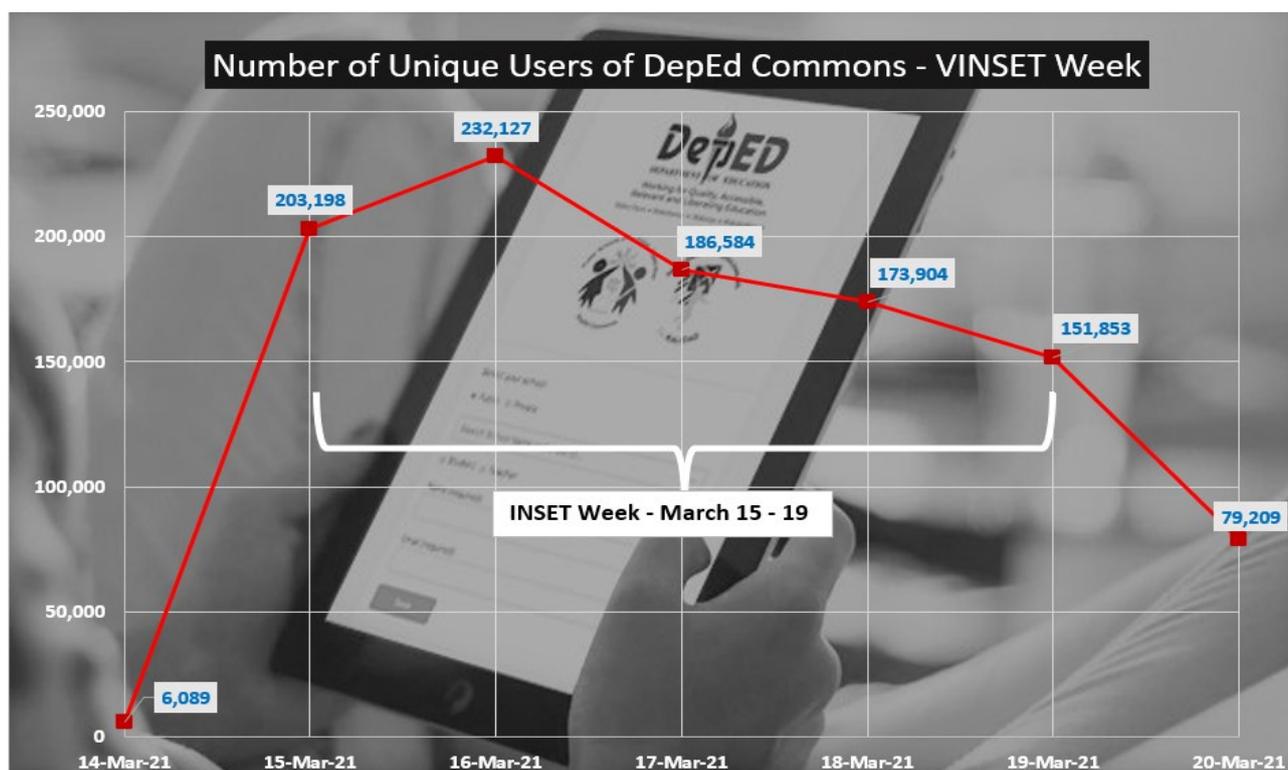


Figure 3. Number of Unique Users of DepEd Commons during the VINSET week

Figure 3 shows the jump in unique users at the start of the 2021 VINSET, sustaining the high volume of users until its conclusion on 19 March 2021.

Cambridge Dictionary describes a ‘unique user’ as “someone who looks at the website one or more times in a particular period of time.” The person “can be recognized by the address of their computer.” “Counting the number of unique users of a website, rather than the total number of visits to the website, is a way of measuring how popular it is,” it added.

The table below shows the total number of impressions and reach of the VINSET per day. This is the combined numbers from DepEd EdTech Unit and DepEd Philippines Facebook pages. The total number of claimed certificates is 475,115 while the rest of the participants have yet to claim theirs.

INSET 2021	Total Impressions	Total Reach
Day 1	5,203,036	4,968,659
Day 2	4,808,324	3,737,920
Day 3	4,431,324	2,879,015
Day 4	4,338,548	2,502,212
Day 5	3,895,807	2,075,874



Figure 4 below shows the number of DepEd Commons unique users per Region as of 23 March 2021.

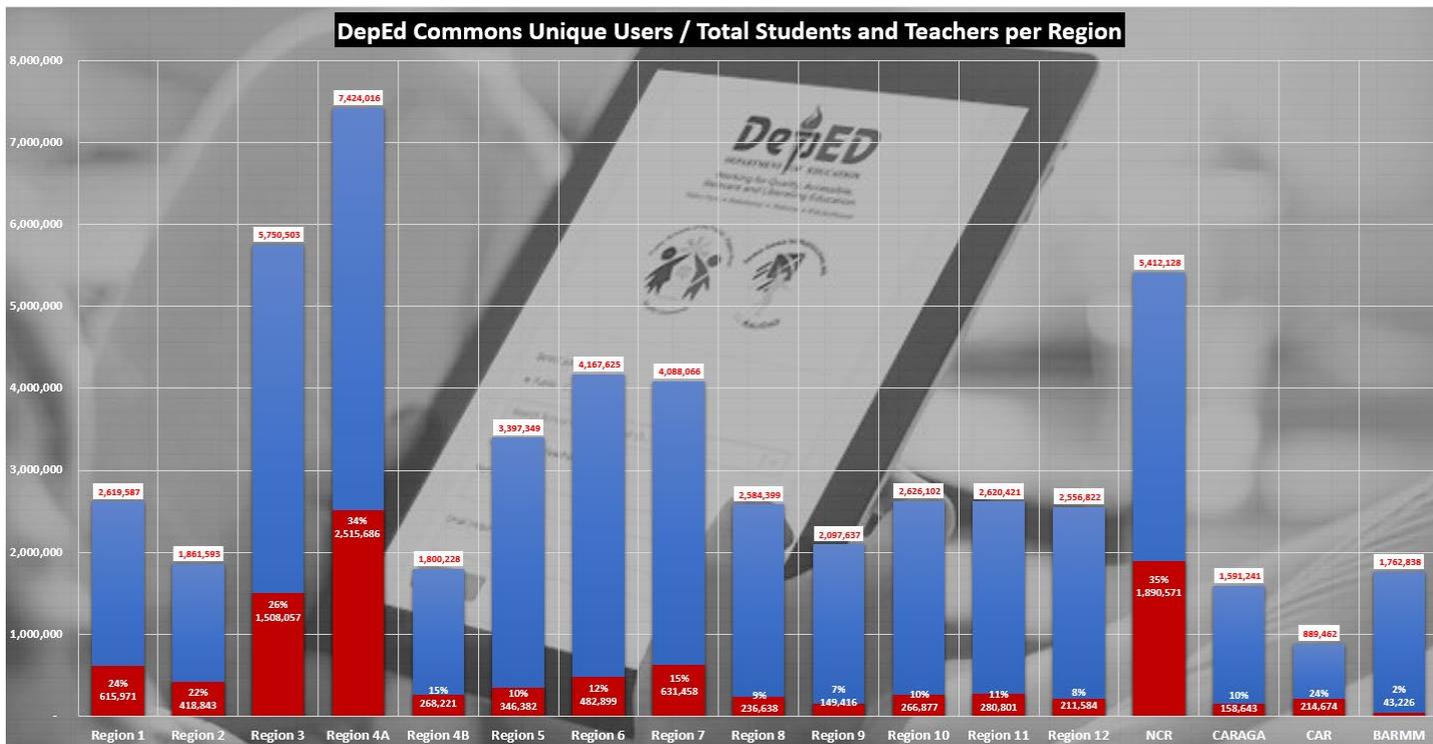


Figure 4. Number of Unique DepEd Commons Users per Region as of March 23, 2021

VINSET participants are able to watch the video lectures in DepEd Commons, Facebook or YouTube. Certificates are provided to those participants who logged in with their DepEd email address:

1. Register at -the DepEd Learning Management System (DLMS) -for the course they wish to take
2. Take the online examination. Passing the online examination earns an e-certificate.

It is also interesting to note that since DepEd Commons and DLMS have a registry of schools and are linked to each teacher. This data gathered will further be useful to identify the needed skills set for the particular school.

Requests from Teaching Personnel (Public & Private Schools, College Instructors and Education students)

The Virtual INSET Courseware was closed last 08 May 2021 with **475,115 participants** who claimed their digital certificate by completing the activities and submitted the needed requirements. When the system was closed, numerous requests from the field sent via email and in Messenger to have the system reopened as they missed some activities due to internet connection issues. As a response and consideration, the ICTS-EdTech Unit decided to make an extension



until 12 June 2021. This will allow the participants to finish the needed activities required in the courseware. This manifests the willingness and strong determination of the education sector to learn new things especially related to the ICT assisted teaching and learning.

III. Google Certification

The Department is targeting to expand the scope and features of DepEd Commons. This is going to be done through the certification of teachers and the legal vetting, curation, and rating of every content available.

To date, around **550 Filipino teachers are now Google Certified Educators**. The certifications came after they demonstrated proficiency in using Google tools in their classes and passing the Level 1 examination. **Region IV-A (CALABARZON) emerged as the top region with the most by number of passers with 156, followed by Region II (Cagayan Valley) with 118, and the National Capital Region (NCR) with 113.**

Three Schools Division Offices (SDOs) have more than 50 passers namely Santiago City with 91, Cavite Province with 65, and Rizal with 55.

IV. Honors Received

The DepEd has already won several international awards on the use of educational technology which include the following:

1. **EdTech Policy Maker Champion** given by Mobile Education Alliance
2. **Crisis and Conflict Response Finalist** awarded by Mobile Education Alliance
3. **EdTech Leader in Asia 2019 Silver Award** given by EduTech Asia
4. **Dedicated Teacher Awards 2021** nominated by Cambridge University Press
5. **Acknowledgement from Wix**, an international online platform¹
6. Trained teachers in **Kotobee** who emerged as champion and runners-up.²

DepEd Commons and the VINSET are part of the Public Schools of the Future (PSOF) Framework's Digital Rise Program of the Administration Strand under the leadership of Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones.



¹ <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/wix-helps-bring-first-of-its-kind-remote-learning-initiative-to-philippines-department-of-education-301102798.html>

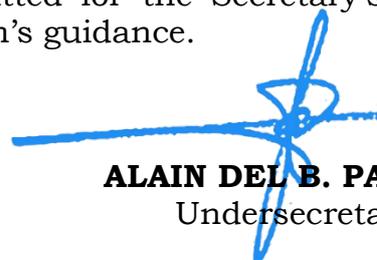
² <https://blog.kotobee.com/kotobee-interactive-ebook-contest-2020/>

V. Recommendations

1. Given the goal and noble purpose of the VINSET for Public School Teachers amplified by its benefits and accomplishments, **OUA proposes the conduct of VINSET -to be on a regular basis** with the following details:
 - Each training batch/series will be held for a period of five (5) days
 - Four (4) days will be allotted for webinars while one (1) day may be appropriate for a face-to-face training for contextual application in schools depending on the current health and safety situation.
2. The far ranging and significant reach, as documented and enunciated, of DepEd Commons (10 million plus learners and teachers) on the other hand, is a feat that should not be ignored nor brushed aside but rather build-up on its wide acceptance and recognition. Therefore, **OUA proposes an aggressive and strategically thorough campaign (for our teachers and learners) in the use of the DepEd Commons platform as a major modality in areas with internet and data connectivity.** The DepEd Commons offer free access via mobile phones and offers modules in digital formats, DepEd TV episodes and OERs.
3. Furthermore, **OUA likewise proposes the conduct of a nationwide search for the best or most promising OERs to be uploaded to DepEd Commons.** Such OERs should address and comply with the requirements of the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs) as the basis of scripts for DepEd TV Episodes. Digital materials can easily be modified and re-uploaded as a new version of the previously uploaded material which is among the advantages, being environmentally friendly.

The use of MELC-compliant OERs and DepEd TV episodes via the DepEd Commons and DepEd Learning Management System (DLMS) online platforms shall be the emphasis in the next VINSETs as part of its capacity-building program for our teachers.

This Aide Memoire is being submitted for the Secretary's reference and approval, and for the Execom and Mancom's guidance.


ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary



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