



PRESS RELEASE

June 18, 2018

CHED TOP OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES UNDERGO DRUG TEST

In support of the campaign of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for a drug-free workplace, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Officer-in-Charge J. Prospero E. De Vera III and key officials of the Commission underwent mandatory random drug testing on Monday, June 18, 2018 at the CHED Central Office in Quezon City.

In a press conference held at noon, De Vera said that all CHED officials will undergo mandatory drug testing and for the rest of the staff of the Commission, will have random drug test for today. This initiative is being undertaken consistent with Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 13, s.2017 provides for the “Guidelines in the Mandatory Random Drug Test for Public Officials and Employees and Other Purposes.”


As stated in the MC, government agencies like CHED are required to conduct a mandatory, random, and suspicion-less drug testing of their incumbent public officials and employees as a condition for retention in government services.

Officials and employees with urine specimens found positive in the screening test shall be submitted for further confirmatory testing within the same day. If the specimen is found positive from the confirmatory testing, the concerned employee will undergo Drug Dependency Examination to be conducted by the Department of Health.

De Vera underscored that drug testing is a health intervention measure to ensure individuals that have problems with drug dependency are identified and given appropriate health and psychological assistance. “This is not meant to penalize government workers. We want to make sure that all individuals in the Commission are performing their functions well and that there are no obstacles to their delivery of efficient public service,” de Vera added.

Since 2016, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has enjoined all agencies of government to support his “War Against Drugs” as part of his campaign promise to get rid of illegal drugs in the first six months of his term.

Joining De Vera in the drug testing exercise were fellow Commissioners Ronald L. Adamat and Lilian A. de las Llagas, Deputy Executive Director Napoleon B. Imperial, and all directors of CHED central and regional offices.


J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III, DPA
Officer-in-Charge and Spokesperson
Commission on Higher Education