



THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY  
3/F PHILAMLIFE BLDG., UN AVENUE, ERMITA, MANILA  
TEL. NO: 528-5029  
PHILAMLIFE@AIA.COM

## Media Release

Contacts : CJ Malibiran  
Tel. No. 528-5029

### **Philam Life Helps Rebuild Schools in Isabela Through Philam Paaralan**

Grade school children in Isabela province will benefit from a better learning environment next school year with the construction of new classrooms supported by the Philam Paaralan Program. The Philam Paaralan is a project of Philam Life, through its corporate social responsibility arm, Philam Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Education. The project aims to provide sustainable source of funds to construct new school buildings in typhoon-affected regions.

Isabela province was among the hardest hit by Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 and Typhoon Juan in 2010, causing major damage to the school infrastructure. Under Philam Paaralan, Philam Life will provide P10 million to construct four one-storey buildings each with two fully furnished classrooms and comfort rooms.

"With education as the major thrust of Philam Foundation this 2011, Philam Paaralan is our flagship project to help ensure that our school children affected by natural calamities can continue their education in proper environment that is conducive to learning," said Philam Life President and CEO Trevor Bull.

DepEd Secretary Armin Luistro thanked the men and women of Philam Life and those behind the Philam Paaralan initiative. "We are happy to know that many groups and companies are realizing the importance of education to our children. We welcome their support in helping us bridge the gaps in the public school system," he said.

The Philam Paaralan will benefit four schools in Isabela province: Alibagu Elementary School and Manaring Integrated School in Ilagan; and Regional Science High School and Ugad Elementary School in Tumauni.

Construction of the classroom buildings in four schools is scheduled to commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2011 in time for the next school year.

The Philam Paaralan memorandum of agreement was signed on March 3, 2011 by Education Secretary Armin Luistro, Philam Life President and CEO Trevor Bull, Philam Life Vice Chairman Jose Cuisia Jr., acting Philam Foundation Executive Director Atty. Carla Domingo, and DepEd Assistant Secretary Reynaldo Laguda.

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Philam Life is a member of the AIA Group Limited (AIA), the largest, independent listed pan-Asian life insurance group in the world.

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The Group traces its origins in Asia back more than 90 years. It is a market leader in the Asia Pacific region (ex Japan) based on life insurance premiums and holds leading positions across the majority of its markets. It has total assets of US\$107.9 billion (as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010).

The AIA Group meets the savings and protection needs of individuals by offering a comprehensive suite of products and services including retirement planning, life insurance and accident and health insurance. The Group also provides employee benefits, credit life and pension services to corporate clients. Through an extensive network of more than 260,000 agents and over 21,000 employees across Asia Pacific, AIA serves the holders of over 23 million individual policies and over 10 million participating members of group policies.

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