



## **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo bats for 11 yrs of basic education with formalization of one level pre-school**

**MANILA, Jan. 4 (PGON) - President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants Philippine “basic education” to expand from 10 to 11 levels – not with an additional high school level but with the formalization of one level of pre-school.**

**This was revealed by the President when she visited the Antonio Maceda Integrated School in Sta. Mesa, Manila this morning in the company of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.**

**In a private meeting with local education officials and the school’s heads and teachers, the President explained that her administration wishes to “transform five-year-olds” into “pre-school graduates” as it is the latter who later survive in private schools.**

**The President let known her plans about basic education when the school reported that it now has a total of 24 pre-school sections.**

**The President said she prefers pre-school to the clamor for an additional year in high school (HS), stressing that “parents need their children to work with them right away.”**

**For this, Congress shall be requested to pass a law that will expand basic education from 10 years to 11 years – one pre-school, the six elementary grades and the four HS levels.**

**And to already prepare for this, the President said day care center teachers should henceforth be trained to teach their wards how to read the alphabet, and how to count.**

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