



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X- NORTHERN MINDANAO
DIVISION OF MALAYBALAY CITY

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DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 193, s. 2020

TO : Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors – SGOD and CID
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

FROM : **VICTORIA V. GAZO**
Schools Division Superintendent

DATE : May 28, 2020

SUBJECT: **DISSEMINATION OF DEPED MEMORANDUM OU-LAPP No. Q-229, s. 2020
RE: GENERAL GUIDELINES ON THE JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
2020 BRIGADA ESKWELA AND OPLAN BALIK ESKWELA (Consistent with
the IATF approved DepEd Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan)**

For information and guidance, the Office hereby disseminates DepEd Memorandum OU-LAPP No. Q-229, s. 2020 re: General Guidelines on the Joint Implementation of the 2020 Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela from **June 1, 2020 – August 29, 2020**.

For queries, you may contact Marsfith M. Mamawag, SEPS-Division Brigada Eskwela/Division Partnership Focal Person at 09653159984 or 09178803864.

Enclosed: As Stated

Copy Furnished: Social Mobilization and Networking Section

TO BE POSTED IN THE WEBSITE



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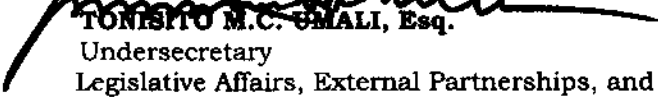



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY
TANGGAPAN NG PANGALAWANG KALIHIM

MEMORANDUM

OU-LAPP No. Q-229, s. 2020

FOR : **UNDERSECRETARIES
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
REGIONAL DIRECTORS
BUREAU AND SERVICE DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

FROM : 
TONISITO M.C. UMALI, Esq.
Undersecretary
Legislative Affairs, External Partnerships, and Project
Management Service


JESUS L.R. MATEO
Undersecretary
Planning and Field Operations

SUBJECT : **GENERAL GUIDELINES ON THE JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE 2020 BRIGADA ESKWELA AND OPLAN BALIK ESKWELA
(CONSISTENT WITH THE IATF APPROVED DEPED BASIC
EDUCATION LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN)**

DATE : May 24, 2020

Relative to the community quarantine situation brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, our Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones secured an approval from the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases on its Basic Education-Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP). The approved BE-LCP provides that the classes for public elementary and secondary schools shall open on August 24, 2020 and end on April 30, 2021. It also states that Brigada Eskwela (BE) and Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE) shall be jointly implemented starting June 1 to August 29, 2020 to engage education stakeholders to ensure adequate preparation for the start of classes.

Consistent with our Secretary's submitted and approved DepEd BE-LCP, attached herewith are the general guidelines which also specify some adjustments in the implementation of BE and OBE that were provided under DepEd Memorandum No. 14, s. 2020 and DepEd Memorandum No. 32, s. 2020. A DepEd Memorandum signed by our Secretary Briones relative to this new implementation arrangements is currently being processed and expected to be issued within this week.

For your information and guidance.

Thank you very much.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES ON JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF 2020 BRIGADA
ESKWELA AND OPLAN BALIK ESKWELA RELATIVE TO THE COVID-19
SITUATION**

1. Relative to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, the Office of the President has issued Proclamation No. 922, s. 2020 declaring a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines. A Memorandum from the Executive Secretary was also released entitled “Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) over the Entire Luzon and Further Guidelines for the Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation.” There were several issuances subsequent to Proclamation No. 922, s. 2020 in relation to the COVID-19 situation which include Executive Order (EO) No. 112 entitled “Imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine in High-Risk Geographic Areas of the Philippines and a General Community Quarantine in the Rest of the Country from 01 to 15 May 2020, Adopting the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation Thereof, and For Other Purposes” issued on April 30, 2020 and the latest Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases Resolution No. 35, s. 2020 dated May 11, 2020.

2. The approved theme for the 2020 Brigada Eskwela as provided under DM 32, s. 2020, “**Pagpapanatili ng Bayanihan Tungo sa Kalidad na Edukasyon para sa Kabataan,**” shall now be the theme for the joint implementation of the 2020 Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela. The slogan for this year’s conduct of BE and OBE shall be “**Bayanihan sa Paaralan.**” With the aim of promoting sustainable and safe living, the slogan highlights the application of knowledge and convergence of efforts to address health and social issues at home, in school, and in the community, relative to the new framework.

3. The “**new framework**” involves following social distancing measures and practicing proper hygiene consistent with the IATF health protocols, Department of Health (DOH) protection protocols, local quarantine rules and all other relevant protocols outlined in DepEd issuances and subsequent DepEd Task Force COVID-19 issuances.

5. Given the present situation and in relation to IATF Resolution No. 35 (Please see attached Annex A, copy of IATF Resolution No. 35, s. 2020 dated May 11, 2020.), DepEd follows the following different scenarios wherein the Central Office (CO), Regional Offices (RO) and Schools Division Offices (SDO) shall prepare considering its impact to the learning environment:

- 5.1. Scenario 1. Low Risk (Minimum Health Standards)
- 5.2. Scenario 2. Moderate Risk (General Community Quarantine)
- 5.3. Scenario 3. High Risk (Enhanced Community Quarantine)

The above-cited scenarios may be amended, subject to further issuances by the President, the IATF, other relevant government agencies, and this Department.

5. The implementation of Brigada Eskwela (BE) and Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE) includes the engagement of stakeholders and addressing problems, queries, and other concerns in preparation for the start of classes. The 2020 BE and OBE shall be adjusted to adapt to the **new framework** of implementation in public schools.

6. The specific amendments and implementation adjustment and plan of action of BE, considering the operation of the ECQ and GCQ to contain the spread of coronavirus (and the possible subsequent lifting thereof), are provided in **Enclosure No. 1 (Item A)** and **Enclosure No.2** to this General Guidelines. The general idea of BE under the new framework is that:

6.1 The traditional concept of BE which involves physical cleaning, painting, repainting, and doing minor repairs will no longer happen in May. Unless otherwise provided by another DepEd issuance, it may still be done during the two weeks before the opening of classes in public schools on August 24, 2020 depending on the prevailing ECQ or GCQ situation. If allowed, schools shall strictly comply with protocols on social distancing and implement precautionary measures consistent with the IATF health protocols, DOH protection protocols, local quarantine rules and all other relevant protocols outlined in DepEd issuances and subsequent DepEd Task Force COVID-19 issuances.

6.2 The new concept of Brigada Eskwela under the new framework shall focus on preparations and strengthening partnership engagement to ensure that learning continues while being responsive to the global pandemic. The program will start from June 1 until August 29, 2020. The activities shall highlight partnership initiatives that complement the Department's efforts to ensure that quality basic education will continue despite the challenges in adapting to the COVID-19 situation, and to implement the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP).

7. The specific amendments and implementation adjustment and plan of action of OBE are specified in **Enclosure No. 1 (Item B)** to this General Guidelines. The general idea is that:

7.1 The DepEd shall set up the Public Assistance Command Center (PACC) at the Central Office with the regional and schools division offices through its Public Affairs Unit (PAU).

- 7.2 OBE shall continue to address frequently asked questions by parents and learners in relation to enrolment, attendance, and other relevant DepEd policies, rules, and regulations on class opening. In partnership with BE, OBE shall focus on an information campaign on the implementation of LCP.
8. The National Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela Media/Online Kick-Off Program, which shall be hosted and led by DepEd Region VI, shall be held on **June 1, 2020**. The details of the tentative Kick-Off Program is likewise attached.
9. For other inquiries and information about these programs, please contact the following:

Brigada Eskwela

External Partnerships Service
Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg.,
Department of Education (DepEd) Central Office
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone nos.: (02) 8638-8637, (02) 8638-8639
Email: externalpartnerships@deped.gov.ph

Oplan Balik Eskwela

Office of the Secretary - Public Affairs Service
Department of Education (DepEd) Central Office
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone nos.: (02) 8636-1663; (02) 8633-1942
Email: depedactioncenter@deped.gov.ph

IMPLEMENTATION ADJUSTMENTS TO:

A. 2020 BRIGADA ESKWELA PROGRAM

1. Consistent with the approved BE-LCP, The schedule of the 2020 Brigada Eskwela Week on May 18-23, 2020 as stipulated in DM 32, s.2020, shall be postponed. DepEd through the External Partnerships Service (EPS) shall now be implementing **a longer national schools' preparation through BE from June 1 to August 29, 2020**. However, under the Brigada Eskwela Plus, the partnership initiatives shall be implemented throughout the school year. This will ensure readiness not only of the school facilities but also the learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, school administrators, and the community. Social distancing measures and regulated gathering of people/volunteers in schools shall be strictly implemented.

2. The national schools' maintenance week, which includes cleaning, minor repairing, repainting, beautification, landscaping, electrical works and installations, and other activities **may** still be done during the two weeks before the opening of classes in public schools on August 24, 2020 depending on the prevailing ECQ/GCQ situation. If allowed, schools shall strictly comply with protocols on social distancing and implement precautionary measures consistent with the IATF health protocols, DOH protection protocols, local quarantine rules and all other relevant protocols outlined in DepEd issuances and subsequent DepEd Task Force COVID-19 issuances.

3. Item No. 3 of DM 32, s. 2020 shall be amended as **"The National Brigada Eskwela Media/Online Kick-off Program"** shall be held online on **June 1, 2020** via MS Teams and/or other media platforms. DepEd Region VI shall host and lead the national kick-off which shall be participated virtually by all regions and selected stakeholders. ROs and SDOs may hold their own virtual kick-off ceremonies during the BE Kick-Off Week from June 1-6, 2020 to launch the Brigada Eskwela in their respective areas **after** the national kick-off program. If ROs and SDOs opt to hold their virtual kick-off, it shall be conducted as an online Brigada Eskwela Forum which may involve the following activities:

- ✓● Orientation on the "New Framework";
- ✓● Discussion of the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP);
- ✓● Investment in Education: Giving New Direction in Engaging Partners;
- ✓● One major BE activity to be adopted by RO/SDO;
- ✓● Conduct of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and PFA training;

- Discussion on the basic roles and responsibilities of different sectors, including parents; and
- Debriefing of learners, among others.

4. All Regional Directors (RDs) and Schools Division Superintendents (SDSs) shall mobilize their Partnerships Focal Persons to effectively implement BE in all public elementary and secondary schools. Partnership engagement activities, if face-to-face is allowed depending on the prevailing ECQ/GCQ situation, shall strictly comply with protocols on social distancing and implement precautionary measures consistent with the IATF health protocols, DOH protection protocols, local quarantine rules and all other relevant protocols outlined in DepEd issuances and subsequent DepEd Task Force COVID-19 issuances.

The use of computer-mediated communication strategy in conducting above-cited activities is highly encouraged. Unless otherwise provided by another issuance by the DepEd-Central Office, Malacañan, the IATF or Local Government Unit (LGU) that has the jurisdiction over the area where the partnership engagement activity is to be conducted, face-to-face activities **may** be allowed provided that the number of participants in **one session** including the Speakers and Secretariat shall:

- not to exceed 15 individuals in a 75-100 m2 venue; or
- not to exceed 25 individuals in a 100-150 m2 venue.

5. Consistent with the approved BE-LCP, the schedule of activities for the 2020 Brigada Eskwela shall be as follows:

Activity	Schedule
National Brigada Eskwela Media/Online Kick-off Program	June 1, 2020
Regional/Division Kick-off Program (Optional)	During BE Kick-off Week from June 1-6, 2020
Brigada Eskwela Implementation and Monitoring of Schools	June 1 to August 29, 2020
Submission of Brigada Eskwela Accomplishment Reports	By Divisions: September 24, 2020 By Regions: October 30, 2020

6. In addition to DM 32, s.2020, the School Heads shall take the lead in planning the activities geared on making schools virus free, ecologically conscious, resilient, clean, safe and conducive to learning. School Heads are encouraged to take into account the engagement of partners the way as stipulated in the 4th pillar of Sulong EduKALIDAD of DepEd in their school's **Learning Continuity Plan**.

7. The schools are encouraged to document all their effort to implement the new way of conducting Brigada Eskwela. The usual reporting format shall be adopted with highlights on the effort in line with the COVID-19 recovery initiatives.

8. The External Partnerships Service (EPS) at the central office shall lead in the conduct of an appreciation program for all the partners in this endeavor. The schools and SDOs are highly encouraged to conduct their own recognition program for partners, and award a certificate of recognition in appreciation of their contribution and initiative to ensure uninterrupted learning.

B. 2020 OPLAN BALIK ESKWELA

1. The conduct of the 2020 Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE) scheduled on May 25 to June 6, 2020 as stipulated in DM 14, s. 2020, was put to halt due to COVID-19 pandemic. The DepEd through the Public Affairs Service (PAS) shall formally implement the activity starting June 1 to August 29, 2020.

2. The OBE is part of the Department's effort to ensure that learners are properly enrolled as part of the LCP and able to continue their education amidst the health crisis situation. It aims to address enrollment-related problems, queries and other concerns commonly encountered by the public. The OBE also strengthens the synergy with the Department's Brigada Eskwela initiative for this school year to engage agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders in contributing to educational needs, especially at this critical time.

3. The OBE-Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) shall focus on the situation at hand which is the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the current health situation, the Department will be guided by the decisions of the IATF affecting the operations of basic education. The member agencies will perform a critical role by providing guidelines in health and safety, peace and order, and transportation when the school year opens. These are the following:

- a. Department of Health (DOH)
- b. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- c. Department of Transportation (DOTr)
- d. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- e. National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)
- f. Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)
- g. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- h. Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)
- i. Department of Energy (DOE)
- j. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
- k. Manila Electric and Company (MERALCO)

- l. Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS)
- m. Philippine National Police (PNP)
- n. Department of National Defense (DND)
- o. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
- p. Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO)

4. The DepEd Central Office shall set up OBE-Public Assistance Command Center (PACC) to be led by the PAS at the national level. This will also be established at the Regional and Division levels to expedite and facilitate the resolution of issues and concerns. The simultaneous conduct of OBE ensures that issues and concerns are immediately addressed in their respective areas.

5. Other functions of the Command Center are the following:

- Receive, process and respond to simple queries, information requests, and grievance from the general public. Complex issues and complaints shall be referred to Legal Officers.
- Assist in the dissemination and clarification of DepEd policies, programs, projects, and processes, particularly those relevant to enrollment issues;
- Monitor, document, and submit daily reports on all issues and concerns received daily including the action taken to the OBE-PACC Central Office at 3:00 p.m.

6. The composition of OBE committees in the region and division are the following:

A. Regional Office

- Chair : Regional Director
- Vice Chair : Assistant Regional Director
- Members : Regional Public Affairs Unit
Regional Legal Office
Regional Administrative Office
Curriculum Division
(Other relevant offices may be included)

B. Schools Division Office

- Chair : Schools Division/City Superintendent
- Vice -Chair : Assistant Schools Division/City Superintendent
- Members : Legal Unit
Administrative Office
Information or Public Affairs Office
Curriculum Division
(other relevant offices may be included)

7. The composition and contact information of the Regional and Division OBE committee members (e.g. names, designation and contact details such as landline, mobile, email, social media account) shall be submitted immediately to the Central Office through the PAS-Public Assistance Action Center (PAAC).

8. The central, regional and division office shall use any available online means of communications that are accessible to the public: hotlines, emails, Short Messaging System, and social media accounts (facebook, twitter, Instagram, viber).

**2020 BRIGADA ESKWELA MANDATED PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND
STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT UNDER THE NEW FRAMEWORK FOR
SCHOOLS**

1. Brigada Eskwela champions the spirit of volunteerism in DepEd. This is not only DepEd's program, but also a program of education stakeholders.

2. In light of the current COVID-19 situation, this year's Brigada Eskwela shall ensure that learning is continued, while being responsive to the global pandemic. Brigada Eskwela shall play an important mechanism to enable schools to catch up with the new expectations in the new framework.

3. Brigada Eskwela activities shall highlight partnership initiatives that complement the Department's efforts to ensure that quality education will continue despite the challenges in adapting to the new framework. Aside from the usual activities conducted in the past Brigada Eskwela, School Heads must ensure the following among other related initiatives:

3.1 Coordinate with the Local Government Units or other non-government organizations and volunteers to clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms and other school facilities.

3.2 School Heads shall engage partners to raise and ensure the availability of the following items in school during Brigada Eskwela:

3.2.1 Thermal scanners;

3.2.2 Hand sanitizing equipment or materials, such as rubbing alcohol, anti-bacterial or germicidal soap;

3.2.3 Cleaning tools, materials or disinfectants that may be used to disinfect the learning areas, such as spray tank, disinfectant spray or disinfecting bleach, foot bath;

3.2.4 Disposable surgical/face mask/shield and surgical gloves;

3.2.5 Multivitamins capsules, tablets, or syrups for our DepEd personnel and school children;

3.2.6 Printing of COVID-19 and sanitation/proper hand washing hygiene information materials; and

3.2.7 Printing of materials and provision of supplies for remote learning for the learners, teachers and parents (i.e. bond papers,

worksheets, notebooks, pad paper, ball pens, pencils, crayons, coloring materials and others).

3.3 The School Heads shall ensure that psychological first aid or other psychological interventions and debriefing are conducted in partnership with stakeholders during the implementation of Brigada Eskwela.

3.4 Orientation activities with teachers, partners, PTA and learners on DepEd's Learning Continuity Plan, with special focus on the implementation of DepEd's flexible learning options. The use of computer-mediated communication strategy in conducting above-cited activities is highly encouraged. Unless otherwise provided by another issuance by the DepEd-Central Office, Malacañan, IATF or Local Government Unit (LGU) that has the jurisdiction over the area where the activity is to be conducted, face-to-face activities **may** be allowed provided that the number of participants in **one session** including the Speakers and Secretariat shall:

- not to exceed 15 individuals in a 75-100 m2 venue; or
- not to exceed 25 individuals in a 100-150 m2 venue.

3.4.1 Encourage parents through the Parents-Teachers Associations (PTA) on possible collaborations with the schools to provide support in the delivery of uninterrupted learning adapting the new framework.

3.4.2 Engage parents in the promotion of the new school system. The new role and increased involvement of the parents in the learning of their children are essential to augment available resources and technology in the community.

3.4.3 Engage partners in the promotion and provision of other learning options such as local radio/TV stations and other available media which can be of help in flexible or remote learning as a form of Brigada Eskwela and partnership initiative to deliver the curriculum. The School Heads may identify resources necessary for High Tech, Low Tech or No Tech aide for learning to engage other partners.

3.5 Lead in the partnership component of the implementation of *Gulayan sa Tahanan* or Urban Vegetable Gardening at Home as part of Brigada Eskwela and School-Family-Community partnerships to promote sustainable food supply at homes.

3.6 School Heads shall update their school emergency and contingency plans and communicate to all stakeholders on how they can support

schools to ensure resiliency. This is in relation to the school safety and preparedness as provided under DepEd Memo No. 32, s.2020.

3.7 Engage partners extensively and substantially in BE and Adopt-a-School Program (ASP) to promote quality education and commit their support in the new framework for the schools, especially in the delivery of uninterrupted learning that goes along with real life situations.

3.8 Collaborate with various stakeholders to guarantee the proper implementation of the Learning Continuity Plan.

3.9 Strengthen Brigada Pagbasa in their Learning Continuity Plan.

3.10 Partnership appreciation and other school-based initiatives.