



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 REGION III-CENTRAL LUZON

DepEd-SDO of Bulacan Office of the SDS

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REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
 No. 652

CREATION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION UNIT IN THE REGIONAL OFFICE AND SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICES

12/15/21
 Reproduction No. 497, s. 2021
 For Dissemination and Compliance
 ZENIA G. MOSTOLES, Ed.D., CESO V
 Schools Division Superintendent
 Schools Division of Bulacan

TO: Chief, Education Support Services Division (ESSD)
 Schools Division Superintendents
 Chiefs, School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)

1. The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right of all children to accessible and quality basic education. Alongside this right is the constitutional policy that the State shall promote and protect their holistic development through the promotion of their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.
2. Among the rights of the child in basic education are the right to education, right against discrimination, right to health, right to participation and to have one's views heard, right to religion, right to rest and play, and right to protection against all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and maltreatment.
3. DepEd Order No. 40, series of 2012 entitled *Policy Guidelines on Protecting Children in School from Abuse, Violence, Exploitation, Discrimination, Bullying and Other Forms of Abuse* or the DepEd Child Protection Policy emphasized the Department's zero tolerance policy for any act of abuse and violence against the child.
4. The Department fully recognizes the rights of the child and takes proactive measure to uphold not only the rights of the child to special protection but also the other rights of the child in the context of basic education.
5. Hence, the Department created two separate but coordinating mechanisms, titled the Child Protection Unit (CPU), to strengthen the implementation of the DepEd Child Protection Policy, and the Child Rights in Education Desk, to help ensure that the rights of the child in basic education are respected, protected, promoted, and fulfilled in, and by, the Department.
6. To establish a mechanism to fully operationalize, implement, and coordinate programs, projects, and activities pertaining to child protection, the Child Protection Unit (CPU) is hereby created.



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7. The CPU shall be under the supervision of the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations, *Palarong Pambansa* Secretariat, and DepEd Employees Associations Coordinating Office (OUFO).
8. At the Regional Level, the lead office for child protection shall be the Education Support Services Division (ESSD).
9. At the Division Level, the lead office for child protection shall be the Schools Governance and Operations Division (SGOD).
10. At the School Level, the Child Protection Committee, created under DO No. 40, s. 2012 or the Child Protection Policy, shall be the structure for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, and coordination of child protection concerns.
11. The duties and functions of the CPU pertaining to the rights of the child to protection in basic education is found in the Enclosure to DepEd Order No. 003, s. 2021 attached with this Regional Memorandum.
12. For information and guidance.

M
MAY B. ECLAR, PhD, CESO III
Ph Regional Director

Encls.: As stated

Legal1/



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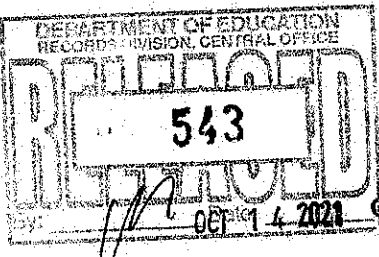




Republic of the Philippines

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS



October 12, 2021

DR. MAY B. ECLAR
Regional Director
DepEd Region III

**Re: Regional Partner for the Third National Summit
on the Rights of the Child in Education on November 25-26, 2021 and
Pre-Summit Conference of Children and Learners on November 15, 2021**

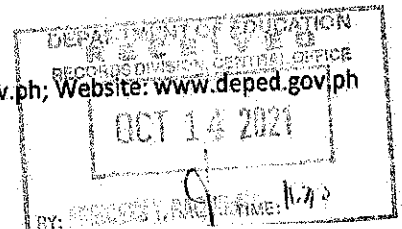
Dear RD Eclar,

As we celebrate the National Children's Month this November, the Department of Education (DepEd), through the Child Rights in Education Desk (CREDe) under the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs (OULA), would like to invite DepEd Region III to be one of the regional partners in the online conduct of the **Third National Summit on the Rights of the Child in Education on November 25-26, 2021** and the **Pre-Summit Conference of Children and Learners on November 15, 2021**.

You may recall that the OULA, in cooperation with DepEd regional partners and development partners including UNICEF and Save the Children, among others, conducted the first and second National Summits on the Rights of the Child in Education in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Both summits were preceded by Pre-Summit Conferences of children and learners to prepare them for participation in the Summits as well as consult them on the Summit design and content. The DepEd-National Capital Region was our regional partner in 2019 while DepEd-Region X was our regional partner in 2020. We are truly grateful for our fruitful partnerships with the regional offices and development partners which made the successful conduct of the Summits possible.

By way of background, the First National Summit, which was held face-to-face at the Heritage Hotel Manila, gathered around 600 participants consisting of officials and personnel from DepEd and various offices in the three branches of government, public and private school personnel, officers of international and civil society organizations, representatives from the business and media sectors, parents, and most importantly, the learners themselves. The Summit was a celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and an opportunity to discuss the various rights of the child in the context of basic education. A member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, based in Geneva, Switzerland, flew in to give a talk on the CRC while an official of UNICEF lectured on rights-based education. Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones gave an informative and inspirational message as keynote speaker. Other notable speakers also came and delivered their Statements of Commitment to the rights of the child, including Senator Sherwin Gatchalian and Representative Roman Romulo, chairpersons of the Committees on Basic Education in the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively.

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28 OCT 2021

Building on the success of the First National Summit, we conducted the Second National Summit during the pandemic, albeit online. With the same mix of participants and enlightening talks from prominent international and domestic speakers, the Second National Summit was attended by around 600 registered participants within the online platform and garnered around 100,000 views in the DepEd Facebook page. Again, it was a fruitful venue to give importance to the rights of the child and the role of duty-bearers in upholding these rights, particularly in the context of the pandemic. As a new segment in the Summit, the Learner's Hour provided an opportunity for children and learners to engage in a dialogue with Secretary Briones herself to discuss experiences and sentiments on education.

This year, the Third National Summit will not only be a continuation of the past two summits, but also a breakthrough and milestone. Building on the gains of the past two summits, the DepEd, in January 2021, issued DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2021, entitled "Creation of the Child Protection Unit and the Child Rights in Education Desk (CREDe) in the Department of Education."¹ As stated in the DepEd Order, CREDe was created to promote the holistic development of the child and the vision of DepEd for "child-centered and child-caring basic education schools, learning centers, and offices, which respect, protect, promote, and fulfill the dignity and rights of children in basic education so they may lead productive and happy lives as they participate in nation-building."² The CREDe, "using a child rights and legal lens, is mandated to perform functions pertaining to policy-formulation, monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the rights of the child in basic education, and building awareness and advocacy of these rights."³

The Third Summit will be a significant opportunity to introduce the rights-based education (RBE) framework of DepEd as well as the CREDe and the work it has been doing and plans to do to enhance the fulfillment of DepEd's mandate as a duty-bearer to respect, protect, fulfill and promote the rights of the child in education. It will be a venue to discuss the efforts of DepEd to uphold the rights of the child and explore ways by which DepEd can work with various stakeholders in further upholding these rights. The Third Summit aims to:

- Build on the gains of the Second National Summit on the Rights of the Child in Education held last November 2020;
- Reinforce the continuing commitment of the Philippine government, including the DepEd and its newly created Child Rights in Education Desk (CREDe), as well as other stakeholders in upholding rights-based education (RBE) during the COVID-19 pandemic, in the so-called "new normal" and in normal times;
- Facilitate discussions and elicit recommendations on upholding RBE during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the so-called 'new normal' through a whole-of-school, whole-of-DepEd, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach; and
- Ensure the participation of children in shaping policies and actions pertaining to RBE during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the so-called 'new normal'.

In this regard, we would like to invite you to a meeting on **October 18, 2021, Monday, 9:00 to 11:00 AM**, to discuss the Third Summit and Pre-Summit Conference of Children and

¹ DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2021, "Creation of the Child Protection Unit and the Child Rights in Education Desk in the Department of Education", dated January 15, 2021.

² *Ibid.*, paragraph 9.

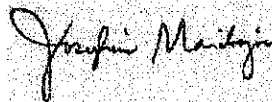
³ *Ibid.*, paragraph 11.

Learners, and a possible partnership between OULA-CREDe and DepEd Region III on these activities. The link to the meeting will be provided upon confirmation of attendance.

For inquiries and confirmation of your participation in the meeting, please contact Mr. Paulo Anthony J. Mendoza of CREDe via email at paulo.mendoza001@deped.gov.ph (cc: childrights@deped.gov.ph and oula@deped.gov.ph).

Inspired by the vision of happy and well-rounded children enjoying their rights in schools, learning centers and other learning environments served by a rights-upholding Department of Education, we look forward to a fruitful partnership with DepEd Region III.

Sincerely yours,



ATTY. JOSEPHINE G. MARIBOJOC
Undersecretary for Legal Affairs