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 Schools Division Superintendent



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OUA MEMO 00-0322-0140

MEMORANDUM

15 March 2022

**For: Regional Directors and BARMM Education Minister
 Schools Division Superintendents
 Regional and Division Tobacco Control Coordinators
 Designated B11 Providers
 NDEP Coordinators
 School Heads**

**Subject: FACT VS. FAKE: TACKLING DISINFORMATION ON THE
 VAPE BILL WEBINAR**

The Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD) invites everyone to a **webinar titled Fact vs. Fake: Tackling Disinformation on the vape bill on 17 March 2022 (Thursday), at 10:00 am.**

The event will be co-streamed at the DepEd Philippines Facebook Page, as well as the **OK sa DepEd** Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/OplanKalusuganSaDepEd>).

The civil society group ImagineLaw is the organizer of the webinar and it is a partner of the Department of Health (DOH) on tobacco control. The organization states:

"The discourse surrounding the harmful Vaporized Nicotine Products and Regulation Act, more commonly known as the Vape Bill, is rife with disinformation and fake news peddled by the tobacco and vape industry. In the past months, the bill's proponents have aired and published unsubstantiated claims to present the measure as pro-health and pro-regulation."

"The truth, as we know, is that the bill will endanger public health inasmuch as it rolls back existing restrictions on vape and e-cigarettes. In fact, it has been severely criticized by medical associations, medical frontliners, public health advocates and the youth for being anti-health and anti-youth."

The webinar aims to discuss and dispel disinformation about the Vape Bill being spread to the public by the tobacco industry and its front groups.

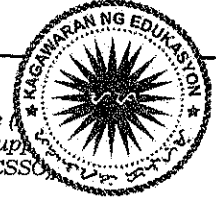


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Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

(Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRMMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO))

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The virtual event will bring together a panel of health advocates, medical experts and media practitioners to shed light on the dangers of using electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems (ENDS/ENNDS) and heated tobacco products (HTPs). It will also tackle how the Vape Bill exposes the people to these dangers.

The Secretary, who was invited to the webinar, has assigned BLSS-SHD to deliver DepEd's message of solidarity during the event, highlighting the department's commitment to protect the Filipino youth against the harmful effects of smoking.

DepEd's message for the activity is aligned with the letter written by the Secretary to the President recommending that the measure be vetoed, consistent with a similar call from the DOH.

Field offices and schools are enjoined to support the activity.

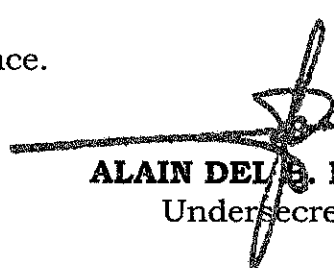
School health personnel concerned, particularly tobacco control coordinators, are requested to work with their counterpart information officers and the managers of their offices' and schools' social media pages to help promote the webinar by:

1. sharing the poster of the activity on their social media pages once it is posted by DepEd Philippines or *OK sa DepEd (The soft copy of the poster can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/factvsfakevapebill>);*
2. sharing the livestream of the activity and re-sharing its recording; and
3. developing social media posters and infographics from the activity and sharing the same on their social media pages; or sharing posters and infographics that will be developed by DepEd, the DOH or ImagineLaw, based on the activity or in support of calls to veto the Vape Bill. *(Materials will also be uploaded in the drive accessible through the link above.)*

Regional and division tobacco control coordinators, Brief Tobacco Intervention providers, National Drug Education Program coordinators and other interested school health personnel are also invited to attend the webinar through the Zoom platform by registering at: <https://bit.ly/factvsfakevapebillzoom>.

For questions and concerns, please contact **Gian Erik M. Adao**, Education Program Specialist II, BLSS-SHD, through telephone number (02) 8632-9935, Viber at 09173274426, MS Teams at gian.adao@deped.gov.ph or email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.

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ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary

