

Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Education
 5/6/22

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 ZENIA G. MOSTOLES, EdD, CESO V
 Schools Division Superintendent

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
 Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

OUA MEMO 00-0522-0006
MEMORANDUM
 02 May 2022

For: **Regional Directors**
Schools Division Superintendents
Regional and Division Tobacco Control Coordinators
School Heads

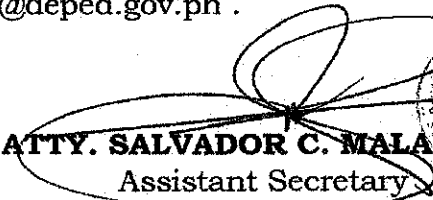
Subject: **ENSURING SMOKE-FREE ELECTIONS**

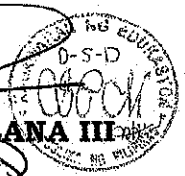
Consistent with existing national laws and government and DepEd issuances, this Office, through the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD), reminds all concerned to ensure that existing **tobacco control and related policies** shall be **strictly implemented** in schools that will be used as **voting centers during the 2022 national elections**.

All division offices and schools concerned are reminded to ensure proper coordination with their respective local government units for the strict enforcement, particularly of the: 1) **ban on smoking and vaping** on all school premises; and 2) **ban on the sale, advertising, and promotion of cigarettes and other tobacco and related products** (e.g., e-cigarettes, vapes, nicotine delivery systems) in and within the 100-meter perimeter of the schools.

Attached is a **letter template (Annex A)** that may be used by the Schools Division Superintendents/School Heads concerned when writing to their respective local chief executives regarding this concern. An editable version of the letter, along with other **printable collaterals**, may be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/smokefree2022elections>. Tobacco control coordinators are requested to provide necessary assistance to schools regarding this concern.

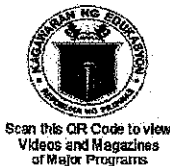
For questions and concerns, please contact **Gian Erik M. Adao**, Education Program Specialist II, through email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.


ATTY. SALVADOR C. MALANA III
 Assistant Secretary
 Officer-in-Charge, Office of the
 Undersecretary for Administration



Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)
[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO)]

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Annex A

4 May 2022

XXXXX X. XXXX

Position/Title

Office

Address

Dear **XX. XXXX**:

Greetings of safety and good health!

Our school/the following schools will serve as (a) voting center(s) for the national elections on 9 May 2022.

With community members expected to come and stay at the school on that day, we would like to request that **the strict enforcement of 100% ban on smoking and vaping/use of electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems** in school premises be part of the assistance provided to us by the local government.

In addition to the harm caused to the health of persons who smoke/vape and those around them, smoking or vaping also **poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission** because of removal of the face mask, touching the face, aerosolization of viral particles, and sharing of devices. The activity also usually entails unnecessary congregation of persons who smoke/vape.

The absolute smoking/vaping ban in schools is also consistent with national laws, executive orders, and government issuances including Republic Act 9211; Executive Order No. 106 (2020); Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 17, s. 2009; and DepEd Order No. 48, s. 2016.

The local government is further requested to help ensure that **no tobacco and related products (e.g., cigarettes, vapes) are sold within 100 meters from any point of the perimeter of our school**, in compliance with RA 9211 and EO 106.

For any question, please contact XXXX.

Looking forward to your support. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

XXXXX X. XXXX

Schools Division Superintendent/School Head