

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
5/19/22  
Reproduction No. 144, s. 2022  
For dissemination and compliance.  
ZENIA G. MOSTOLES, EdD, CESO V  
Schools Division Superintendent



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

DepEd - SDO of Bulacan  
**RECEIVED**  
MAY 18 2022  
By: [Signature]

DepEd SDO of Bulacan Office of the SDS  
**RECEIVED**  
MAY 18 2022  
By: [Signature]  
Time: [Signature]  
SECTIONAL OFFICE NO. 02368  
MAY 18 2022

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. 286, s. 2022

**REITERATING SOME SALIENT PROVISIONS OF R.A. 8491 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
Chiefs of Regional Functional Divisions

1. Based on the observations during school visits, it was noted that some schools still display old, a faded, tattered, and undersized Philippine Flag, which somehow desecrates the country's most cherished symbol. In view of this premise, this Office hereby reiterates some salient provisions of Republic Act No. 8491 otherwise known as the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines.
2. Section 2: Declaration of Policy of the aforementioned R.A. states that reverence and respect shall at all times be accorded the flag, the anthem, and other national symbols which embody the national ideals and traditions, and which express the principles of sovereignty and national solidarity.
3. It was further stated that the heraldic items and devices shall seek to manifest the national virtues and to inculcate in the minds and hearts of our people a just pride in their native land, fitting respect and affection for the national flag and anthem, and the proper use of the national motto, coat-of-arms and other heraldic items and devices.
4. Section 5: The flag shall be displayed in all public buildings, official residences, public plazas, and institutions of learning everyday throughout the year.
5. Section 8: All government agencies and instrumentalities, and local government offices, government-owned corporations and local government units are enjoined to observe "Flag Day" with appropriate ceremonies. Socio-civic organizations and the private sector are exhorted to cooperate in making the celebration a success.
6. On March 6, 1965, Presidential Proclamation No. 374 was issued declaring May 28 as National Flag Day to commemorate the date when the national emblem was first unfurled after the Philippine Revolutionary Army defeated the Spanish forces in the battle at Alapan, Imus, Cavite in 1898.
7. However, on May 23, 1994, Executive Order No. 179 was issued extending the period of celebrating the National Flag Day from May 28 to June 12. All Filipinos are encouraged to display the Philippine flag in all offices, agencies and instrumentalities of government, business establishments, schools, and private homes throughout this period.



Address: Matalino St. D.M. Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P)  
Telephone Number: (045) 598-8580 to 89; Email Address: region3@deped.gov.ph



1074



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

8. Section 14: A flag worn out through wear and tear shall not be thrown away. It shall be solemnly burned to avoid misuse or desecration. The flag shall be replaced immediately when it begins to show signs of wear and tear.

8.1 Relative to the disposal of worn-out Philippine Flags, schools are requested to surrender them to the district/SDO. The flags to be burned are handed first to the Head of Office or his/her representative, then to the guest of honor (if there is any). After the burning, the ashes are then placed in an urn, which is laid to rest in a burial ground at least 1.5 feet deep.

8.2 Flag burning, however, can pose hazards to health and burning activities are prohibited under Republic Act No. 9003 otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Program Act of 2000. In this respect, burying the worn-out flags placed in wooded box may be an alternative/option.

8.3 Disposal of the worn-out flags may be conducted as one of the highlights of the Flag Raising Ceremony in commemoration of the Philippine Independence Day on June 12. The urn or box will be buried in a hole near a flagpole while the song "Bayan Ko" is repeatedly played throughout the ceremony.

9. Section 39: All officials and employees of the national and local governments, and agencies or instrumentalities thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations, privately owned entities of offices displaying the national flag and government institutions of learning are hereby directed to comply strictly with the rules prescribed for the rendition of the anthem. Failure to observe the rules shall be ground for administrative discipline.

10. Section 48: Failure or refusal to observe the provisions of this Act; any violation of the corresponding rules and regulations issued by the Office of the President shall, after proper notice and hearing, be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation.

11. Section 49: The Department of Education, and the Commission on Higher Education shall ensure that the National Anthem, as adopted by law, shall be committed to memory by all students of both public and private educational institutions, and performed during the flag raising ceremony conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the Office of the President.

12. In consonance with Section 49, the Department of Education issued D.O. No. 50, s. 2015 articulating the Observance/Conduct of Flag Raising and Lowering Ceremonies and Proper Sequence in Official DepEd Programs Involving the Singing of the Philippine National Anthem.



Address: Matalino St. D.M. Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P)  
Telephone Number: (045) 598-8580 to 89; Email Address: region3@deped.gov.ph



Certificate No. AJA17-0077



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

- 12.1 Pursuant to Section 18 of R.A. No. 8491, all government offices and educational institutions are required to participate in the Observance /Conduct of Flag Raising Ceremonies every Monday morning and Flag Lowering Ceremonies every Friday afternoon.
- 12.2 While there is no law categorically stating the order of a public ceremony, specifically, whether the singing of the Philippine National Anthem should come before or after the invocation, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Protocol on the Observance of Commemorative Events provides that the singing of the Philippine National Anthem should come before the invocation in official government functions. However, this may be distinguished from programs or gatherings that are religious in nature or are sponsored by or conducted in private schools or in "faith-based" institutions. In view of this, the following guidelines are hereby issued:
- 12.3 **Flag Raising Ceremonies**
- All officials and employees from the central, regional, school division offices, and public schools nationwide, including all public school learners who have morning classes, are required to join the conduct of Flag Raising Ceremonies with the following sequence:
- 12.3.1 Singing of *Lupang Hinirang*
- 12.3.2 Interfaith Prayers
- 12.3.3 Recitation of *Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat ng Pilipinas*
- 12.3.4 Recitation of *Panunumpa ng Lingkod Bayan* by all DepEd Officials and Employees only
- 12.4 In the conduct of Flag Raising Ceremonies in private schools or "faith-based" learning institutions, however, the foregoing sequence with respect to the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and Invocation need not be observed. Thus, the invocation is optional or may be done prior to the singing of the Philippine National Anthem. In either case, the recitation of the *Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat ng Pilipinas* should follow.
- 12.5 The flag shall be raised in strict compliance with Section 21 of RA 8491 which provides:



Address: Matalino St. D.M. Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P)  
Telephone Number: (045) 598-8580 to 89; Email Address: region3@deped.gov.ph



Certificate No. A:AT7-0077



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

12.5.1 During the flag raising ceremony, the assembly shall stand in formation facing the flag. At the moment the first note of the anthem is heard, everyone in the premises shall come to attention; moving the vehicles shall stop. All persons present, shall place their right palms over their chest, those with hats shall uncover, while those in military, scouting, security guard, and citizens military training uniforms shall give salute prescribed by their regulations, which salute shall be completed upon the last note of the anthem.

12.5.2 The assembly shall sing the Philippine National Anthem, accompanied by a band, if available, and at the first note, the flag shall be raised briskly. The same procedure shall be observed when the flag is passing in review or in parade.

13. Official Programs Involving the Singing of the Philippine National Anthem, the following guidelines shall be observed:

13.1 In case of official DepEd programs conducted in the central, regional, schools division offices and public schools nationwide involving the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, the singing of the *Lupang Hinirang* should be done before the Invocation at the start of the program proper. The *Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat ng Pilipinas* and the *Panunumpa ng Lingkod Bayan* need not be recited.

13.2 In programs held in private schools, "faith-based" learning institutions, and other gatherings religious in nature; however, the invocation is optional or may be done prior to the singing of the Philippine National Anthem at the start of the program proper.

14. Flag Lowering Ceremonies

Consistent with Section 18 of RA 8491, all central, regional, schools division offices and public and private schools nationwide shall henceforth observe the Flag Lowering Ceremonies every Friday afternoon. The ceremony shall be simple and dignified and shall include the playing or singing of the Philippine National Anthem. The flag shall be lowered in strict compliance with Section 22 of the same law which provides:

14.1 During the flag lowering, the flag shall be lowered solemnly and slowly so that the flag shall be down the mast at the sound of the last note of the anthem. Those in assembly shall observe the deportment or shall observe the same behavior as for the flag raising ceremony.



Address: Matalino St. D.M. Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P)  
Telephone Number: (045) 598-8580 to 89; Email Address: region3@deped.gov.ph



Certificate No. AJA17-0077



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

15. Section 50: Any person or judicial entity which violates any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than five thousand pesos (P 5,000.00) but not more than twenty thousand pesos (P 20,000.00), or by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court. Provided, that for any second and additional offenses, both fine and imprisonment shall always be imposed. Provided, that in case the violation is committed by a juridical person, its President or Chief Executive Officer thereof shall be liable.

16. All schools division superintendents, heads of public and private elementary and secondary schools are enjoined to extend full administrative support to ensure the appropriate observance/conduct of Flag Ceremonies in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

17. Wide dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum earnestly is desired.

*M*  
**MAY/B. ECLAR, PhD, CESO III**  
*MB*  
Regional Director

References:

Republic Act No. 8491  
Republic Act No. 9003  
DepEd Order No. 50, s. 2015

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

FLAGS      POLICY

HRDD1/  
May 16, 2022



Address: Matalino St. D.M. Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P)  
Telephone Number: (045) 598-8580 to 89; Email Address: region3@deped.gov.ph



Certificate No. AJA17-0077