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# Davao DISPATCH

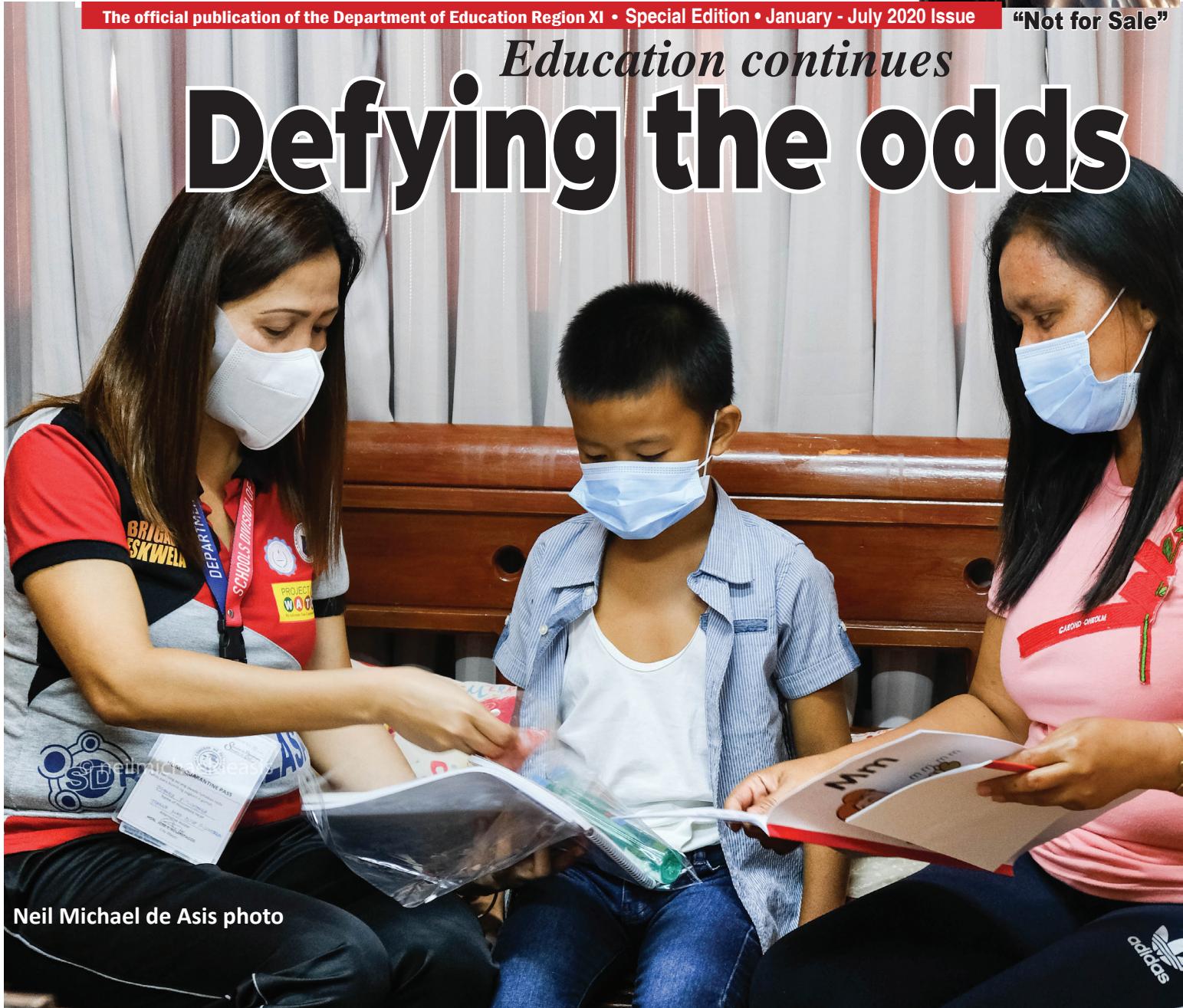
Life is education. Education is life.

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"Not for Sale"

*Education continues*

## Defying the odds



Neil Michael de Asis photo



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# DepEd DavNor: Coping with the new normal

By Neil Edward D. Diaz, Giselle Letada, and Walter Willy Batosalem

As a response to the “new normal” in education due to the pandemic, the Division conducted a survey per school on the various learning modalities. With the results leaning towards alternative modes of learning and to capacitate the teachers in the crafting of worksheets, the Division hosted the Webinar on the Development of Self-Learning Activity Sheets.

Identified writers and evaluators joined in the online training. Through the help and coordination of teachers, the developed activity sheets will serve as the primary resource to supplement or replace face-to-face or conventional mode of learning.

From the months of April to July, the Division also spearheaded the crafting and implementation of the 8-week Reading Curriculum in Mother Tongue, English, and Filipino.

Dr. Dee Diel Silva, schools division superintendent, personally laid the groundwork for the Reading Curriculum for the teacher-writers to be guided in their authoring of the resource. A series of webinars were

conducted to train the teachers on the writing and utilization of the reading modules.

The program targets 75 percent of non-readers to be able to read by August 24, and the Frustration Level Readers to go up to Instructional Level. As of writing, teachers brought the Reading modules to the homes of the pupils who will then study under the guidance of their parents and guardians.

In terms of school preparation, the budget previously allotted for seminar expenditures are realigned to buy items needed in the new normal for education like medical and hygiene supplies. Annual Procurement Plan and Annual Implementation Plan of schools are also revisited to cater the production of modular learning resources.

## Maniki CESSC calls for ‘Super BIBO’ to save the day

The learning delivery modalities of Maniki Central Elementary School SpEd Center (MCESSC) include modular, online, TV & radio-based



instruction, and blended distance learning.

The modular mode is dubbed as BIBO’s Learning Kit. It begins with the printing of modules; followed by disinfecting of the kits; delivery to every BIBO’s Hub (Purok) with the help of barangay vehicles; distribution of kits with Bibo’s Jingle as the signal for a class to start; monitoring of pupils

by the advisers via SMS, messenger or home visitation; and collection of kits every Friday.

The online mode is called MCESSC Cares Academic link. In this scheme, there is an assigned teacher who creates a room and conducts a virtual class. Information is disseminated through social media with Super Bibo as school's icon. Super Bibo becomes the official mascot in every advocacy campaign posted in Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. It appears in the learning modalities, posters, and online enrolment.

Enrolment process also includes other promotional collaterals like leaflets, streamers, and tarpaulin. Its promotion is also broadcast during the weekly campaign series of Brigada Eskwela 2020.

As the campaign icon in Brigada Serye, Super Bibo has also featured some DepEd initiatives such as DepEd Commons, O.K. sa DepEd, Brigada Pagbasa, and a salute to our frontliners to help the institution promotes its plans and activities.

Another is the MCESSC NDEP - "Laro Kontra Bisyo" program which encourages learners to avoid undesirable habits and guide them towards rewarding goals. This is to counter the unfortunate current situation wherein the undesirable habits are seemingly glaring among the young ones and the good ones difficult to be inculcated in them.

During the 46th Nutrition Month Celebration 2020, the theme was "Batang Pinoy, SANA TALL, Iwas Stunting, SANA ALL! Iwas ALL din sa COVID-19."

Because of the SBFP-BLT Central Kitchen Program- Share-out Love.... Tangkad, Talino and National Nutrition Council's (NNC), "Bansot ay dumarami na, lalo't COVID 19 pandemia ay narito," the Kapalong East District Nurse gave inputs virtually to teachers through the Information Education Campaign (IEC) about the 10 Kumainments, making sure we meet dietary requirements during this challenging time.

With regard to disaster risk reduction management (DRRM), MCESSC, through its SDRRM Coordinator, has enforced health protocols which includes putting up of markers to ensure physical distancing around the campus and

in the offices, disinfecting individuals entering the school premises, and closely monitoring the health status of the personnel.

### More enrollment for Sto. Tomas NHS

Facing the challenges in education head on, Sto. Tomas National High School (STNHS) tallies more than



7,000 students as the enrollment closes July 15. This number surpasses the total number of students enrolled last school year.

STNHS made its online, call and text platforms for enrollment open from June 2 to July 15 with all teachers taking responsibilities in ensuring that education will continue.

While online enrollment was having its thing over the Internet, at least 54 teachers served as client service representatives who accommodated queueing calls and texts from parents' and students' limited Internet connectivity.

As a result, the school recorded a whopping 1,181 successful enrollment on its first day. After the first week of enrollment, the successful turnout was 4,367 and that was only 2,000 students shy away from its more than 6,000 total number of students last school year.

To promote ease in enrollment, automated responses were incorporated in the Facebook page of the school. Using it, enrollees only needed to send a message to the page and the options on enrollment process and queries will be provided. Thus, enrollment and getting answers on queries became just a few clicks

process.

However, the rate of enrollment declined on the second week as it recorded an additional 1,273 students only on June 8-11 bringing the total to 5,640 students.

Because of that, the enrollment was intensified by introducing the purok-based enrollment on June 15. This weeklong mode of enrollment gave the staying-at-home parents and guardians of the students with limited Internet and phone service connectivity to enroll their children through their respective purok leaders.

Even with a low rate of additional enrollment in its last three weeks, yet-to-decide parents were finally encouraged to enroll their children for this school year. Outbound communications with the parents were facilitated through calls and home visitations just to make things happen.

After a month and a half of enrollment for the school year 2020-2021, STNHS finally achieved the goal of surpassing the number of students it had last year, and retained its moniker as the largest and premiere school in the division of Davao del Norte. **D**

# Panabo City: Compassion lived & multiplied

By Irhyn Petalcorin, Leny Pasaje

Inspired by the Bayanihan to Heal as Act One law and amidst COVID 19 pandemic that's been wildly spreading globally, teachers and staffs of Panabo City Division continue to be of public service providing aid in any form for those people who are deeply affected by the virus.

Driven by human instinct and kindness, the Department of Education of Panabo City Division headed by Dr. Reynante Solitario, schools division superintendent, and school heads, along with their teachers, gladly distributed packed goods to almost 60 percent Panaboans residing in various sitios who were most affected by the pandemic.

The Division generated 1.244 million worth of donations heartily given to front liners, families in the communities, and affected personnel.

Ronisa Padrigon, a teacher of Little Panay National High School, trekked the bushy road going to Barangay Cacao bringing with her 20 packed goods with a happy heart as she says "it is better to give than to receive."

The special efforts made by teachers like Padrigon were valued by the residents in the communities. Some teachers in the city willingly distributed food packs to the front liners and relief goods for families that lost their only source of income because of the pandemic.

Melba Rivera, a mother of 4 children and a resident of that barangay, commented that even teachers do have many bills to pay, so many responsibilities to attend to, and huge tasks to perform, but they still find ways to respond to the needs of people even when not asked to do so.

The teachers, however, found



ways to produce something for themselves while the community is under quarantine.

They planted vegetables in their own backyards and this has become

the new normal for some other teachers for they can't freely go out as the pandemic continues to threaten their normal routines.

Exactly six months have passed

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since the country confirmed its first COVID 19 case, teachers are now on the job as online trainings, webinars, and online enrollment start to take place over physical appointments.

### Strengthening the Reading Program

BASAKleta is a literacy station developed by Salvacion Elementary School where a bike with books is parked outside the house of a teacher, purok leader, and identified parents for three days.

The name of the project is derived from the word, "BASA" which means to read and "kleta" which means to cycle the books.

A tarpaulin with instructions is posted. Children will write their name in the logbook and get the books by themselves. After reading, they will fill up the borrower's card at the back of the book or reading material and answer the prompt line "Ang akong natun-an sa basahon \_\_\_\_\_ (What I learned from the book \_\_\_\_\_)". The children will also personally return the books.

Along with the pleasure of reading books, children also enjoy free tub of champorado sponsored by LGU Panabo and RICH Cocoa. It has catered 302 learners along five purok in the barangay within eight weeks implementation.

Iryhn E. Petalcorin, the school principal, said the BASAKleta project is part of the school's advocacy and communication effort

to operationalize the four pillars of Sulong Edukalidad despite the pandemic. As of this writing, 12 bicycles were donated by Rich Cocoa, Mr. & Mrs. Estor, and SES Alumni Batch '86.

"We came up with a bike because it can reach remote places and we will no longer spend for gasoline; at the same time we will be promoting healthy lifestyle," she said.

Alongside with the project, Petalcorin said they also advocate honesty at the same time since learners have the freedom to get and return the books. They



want to see the effectiveness of increasing literacy and developing honesty in a free reading station.

The school started with one bicycle when the school's security guard, Gary Montilla, lent his bike with the desire to help strengthen the advocacy of the school. He also delivers books in the identified purok station.

Now, the school received several commitments on the provision of bicycles, books, and food. (D)



# DepEd Davao City: Looks into the nobility of giving

In these trying times of the global pandemic, the Division of Davao City showed bayanihan in helping the victims of COVID-19. Educators, parents, and stakeholders donated a sum of money to procure relief goods, beds, masks, and personal protective equipment (PPE) for the medical and barangay front liners. The Division, through the different clusters, schools, and districts, provided aid to the affected school personnel, students, and families during the pandemic.

## Schools pooled resources

Tugbok Central Elementary School

Sped Center (TCESSC) generated 49,500 and the amount came from the generous hearts of its teachers

"We used the amount to purchase nine sacks of rice where seven sacks were turned over to barangay Tugbok while the remaining two were evenly distributed to non-teaching contractual school workers," Riza P. Lobitos, principal of TCESSC, said.

Tugbok Brgy Capt. Wilfredo A. Anfone expressed his gratitude to the teachers of TCESSC for helping them in their quest to help every resident.

Catalunan Pequeño Elementary School (CPES) also put together 98,000.

In turn, the administrators and educators under CPES spearheaded the packing of relief goods for the utility workers, CPES learners, and the SPED learners who belong to the less fortunate families.

Kapitan Tomas Monteverde Sr. Central ES generated 50,000. The school used the sum to donate 3,000 each for the schools' front liners.

"This is not a fight of the government alone. This is a fight of every individual, of every Filipino. And we teachers of Kapitan Tomas Monteverde Sr. CES-SpEd Center must give our share," Principal Elena N. Meralles said encouraging everyone to take part in the battle against the effect of COVID-19.

Magallanes ES (MES) contributed 34,300 for the MES COVID-19 outreach activity. Relief packs were also given to the utility workers, security personnel, and front liners stationed at MES, Almendras Gym, Quimpo Boulevard, and Quezon Boulevard.

MES also became a temporary shelter for 24 front liners composed of nurses and medical personnel, MES Principal Maryjane S. Sarillana said.

It provided the necessary facilities such as feeding center, shower rooms and



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classrooms with folding beds, mattresses and beddings. It also had security guards and utility workers on duty to keep the school safe.

Mintal Comprehensive High School (MCHS) activated its Project CARE initiative (Commitment, Accountability, Responsibility, Excellence) during the pandemic. It generated 41,560 pesos where 110 packs of rice and groceries were prepared; 60 packs of goods were given to Barangay Mintal and 50 packs of food supplies were given to the front liners.

In addition, the school also donated PPE and K95 masks to the Southern Philippines Medical Center. Education Program Specialist Marianita Corpus spearheaded the packing, repacking, and distribution of relief goods to 70 Alternative Learning System learners.

"I would like to thank MCHS Teachers, ALS Instructional Managers and Alumni for their overwhelming support through our Project CARE. We were able to deliver food packs to 60 families, 50 front liners and 70 ALS learners. Surely, God will bless all of you a hundredfold,"

Dr. Johnito O. Galan, public schools district supervisor, said.

Schools under Cluster 1 also generated funds and resources for the COVID-19 relief operations.

Emilio Ramos National High School (NHS) raised 76,080 pesos; Emilio Nograles NHS contributed 94,930 pesos; Leon Garcia Sr. NHS shared 66,689 pesos; Sta. Ana NHS shared 168,000 pesos; and Vicente Nograles NHS donated 13,500 pesos.

Davao City NHS put together 230,050 pesos and allotted a portion of the money raised to the City Government of Davao for its relief operations, while part of the cash was given as assistance to the utility workers of the school.

The amount raised by the schools were used to pack and distribute relief goods, purchase and turn-over of PPEs, masks, and donate cash for the front liners.

"We extend our support to the front liners considering that they are the ones shielding us from further contamination. In these times, we all need to give love and to share our blessings to those in



Tugbok Central Elementary School SPED Center Principal Riza P. Lobitos turns over the sacks of rice pooled from personal resources of the teachers and staff to Tugbok Barangay Captain.

great need," Dr. Wenefredo E. Cagape, public schools district supervisor of Clusters 1 and 3, said.

Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Dr. Reynaldo M. Guillena with Assistant SDSs, Dr. Basilio Mana-ay Jr., and Dr. Emma A. Camporedondo, and all units, sections, offices, and schools continue the initiative to spread hope amidst the pandemic.

"This is the time for us to show the spirit of bayanihan. Let us be resilient amidst these trying times. Let us continue to help those in need," Guillena expressed.

According to Mana-ay, the total amount generated and distributed to the front liners in the first couple of weeks when the quarantine was implemented reached almost 1.5 million.

"Of the total amount, 92,000 was allocated for the facemasks and packed meals

for the different personnel manning the checkpoints at the third Congressional District. About 105,194 worth of monetary contribution was given as cash assistance to utility workers, drivers, and schools/office guards, and 62,000 was given as cash assistance to some residents of Tibungco District," Mana-ay said.

He also shared that more than 1.1 million was allotted to procure and distribute packs of rice, grocery items, toiletries, and facemasks to the front liners and indigent families in Davao City.

(By Dr. May Ann M. Jumuad, Dr. Wenefredo E. Cagape, Lydia M. Cagape, Janice C. Abrea, Joanna Paula M. Cagape, Lovelyn A. Del Socorro, Ireen R. Cañete, Anecito P. Neri Jr, Leah D. Delos Reyes, Michelle D. Lisondra, Meriam C. Lanes, Merlyn T. Salaypane, Gil F. Macias) **D**



Cluster 6 Public Schools District Supervisor Dr. Johnito O. Galan carries packs of rice and groceries to be turned over to Barangay Mintal Council.

# DepEd DavOr: Giving back to the community



Filipinos take pride of its bayanihan culture which has been passed on to generations. We have witnessed how a Filipino lends a hand to his brothers in times of disasters and challenging situations. As COVID-19 continues to be a threat to the world, the Filipinos' bayanihan

spirit has become even more evident.

Brigada Eskwela (BE) is one of DepEd's activities that highlights the spirit of bayanihan. During the BE, all community stakeholders gather together to help prepare schools for the incoming school year. It has been a practice for school heads to reach out to the community of parents, agencies, and local officials. However, the global pandemic has put a halt to the usual school activities of stakeholders.

Nevertheless, the bayanihan spirit lives on as schools of DepEd Davao Oriental reached out to its stakeholders not to ask for assistance but to give back by taking part in the fight against COVID-19.

After the World Health Organization issued an advisory on the use of face masks to help protect oneself and limit the spread of COVID-19, one of the problems

that were encountered was the shortage of supply of surgical face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). With this, student leaders, teachers, and other school staff gathered funds to purchase the necessary PPE for the community front liners.

Aside from that, teachers helped in preparing meals for front liners. They are not only passionate in teaching but also in cooking healthy meals for school children. This has been a practice in schools relative to the implementation of the School-Based Feeding program. But since the learners are all staying at home, the cooking skills of teachers are put into better use by preparing meals for the front liners manning the checkpoints and health centers.

The global pandemic resulted to painful economic realities to Filipino families. This crisis affected most of the laborers, businesses and wage earners. This same thought

has crossed the minds of the teachers in Davao Oriental.

With this, the teachers and school staff distributed food packs and medicines to identified families in the community. This act has proved that a teacher possesses a dedicated heart who is always ready to serve over and beyond the call of duty. This also shows that teachers treat their learners with their families as their own.

Teachers prepared-packed meals such as battered chicken, vegetables, sandwiches, among others.

All in all, the division generated an estimated amount of 1.2 million intended for donations.

These simple bayanihan initiatives of the teachers and school staff of Davao Oriental do not only alleviate the current struggles of the community. More importantly, these acts gave truth to nation's call to heal as one. **D**





*La Filipina NHS also received 50 pieces wifi modem from Blackfighter Security Agency worth Php 50 thousand, 20 pieces wifi modem from Hexat Mining Corporation and King Eagle Mining Explorat*

# DepEd Tagum: Calibrating its system

*By Harley Aglosolos, Iris Kristine A. Mejos*

The Department of Education Tagum City has never been this busy in recalibrating its system to adapt with the current challenges besetting education as the Covid-19 pandemic threatens the continuance of learning delivery. The battle to surmount the limitations takes innovation, collaboration, and synergy.

## On technology advancement

What used to be schools located in internet dead zones can now enjoy the luxury of accessing wide learning resources as the division installed Point-to-Point (P2P) Tower in three schools in the city on the last week of June.

According to Dr. Josephine L. Fadul, schools division superintendent, the Local School Board approved 27.6 million supplemental budget in support to the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) of the division which includes the provision of internet connectivity in schools.

"The Local Government Unit of Tagum City has helped us realize our vision of putting up P2P tower in the remotest schools in the city. It is the first time for

the school community to have internet connection in the area," Fadul said during the Brigada Eskwela (BE) Partnership Forum at La Filipina National High School (NHS).

In answer to the needs of schools,

Division ICT Coordinator Arian Aime Abatayo said the Division Office has partially distributed the WiFi modems to schools while the 120 units of laptops for teachers are already on the bidding stage as other ICT equipment are on the



*Three remote Schools now installed with P2P Tower*



procurement stage.

Meanwhile, Sheila Grace Barbaso, school head of Cabugan Elementary School (ES), said this project is a great help in upskilling the teachers since they can now attend various webinars and online meetings.

"We feel elated that even though we are serving in the remote school of the city, we are now connected with the world of knowledge which we can use to the advantage of our learners' education. We are no longer left behind," Barbaso said.

Moreover, Brigitte Asas, school head of San Agustin ES, considered this project as an answer to their long-time wish to have access to updated information as well as to have the means to submit reports and documents electronically on time.

"It would also be easier for us to disseminate information about the school and to advocate the programs of DepEd,"

Asas said.

Prescilla Gulles, school head of Liboganon Integrated School, said that prior to this project, it was a struggle for teachers especially in updating their students' information in DepEd's Learner Information System.

"So much of our tasks are now easier

to accomplish with this P2P Tower. We are so thankful to SDS Josephine Fadul, City Mayor Allan Rellon and the councilors and Division ICT Coordinator Arian Aime Abatayo," Gulles said.

Even prior to these projects, DepEd has already subsidized through the SEF the monthly internet subscription of identified



small schools.

On learning modalities

In a speech during the Division Webinar in Reading, Mayor Allan L. Rellon said that the City Government has realigned its proposed items in the upcoming 600 million loan that would directly and indirectly affect the education sector.

"In the vehicles that we will be providing to the

barangays, isa sa mga mandato doon sa term of reference ng gagamiting sasakyang ay tutulungan ang ating mga different schools sa paghahatiid ng weekly modules," Rellon said.

Rellon added that they will include in the Memorandum of Understanding with Love Net Cable TV, the allotment of time slot for DepEd on Channel 28 for the use of its television-



based education.

#### On partnership with stakeholders

Various organizations have also been working hand-in-hand with DepEd Tagum City in providing the needs for the various modalities.

Fadul said the Division Office is very grateful for the many volunteers who came out and asked how they could help DepEd and how they could answer the learners' needs based on the new modalities of learning.

"This is where we see the spirit of bayanihan. If there is an institution where you could give your extra resources, it's DepEd since it will be our children who will benefit. These are the same children who will become the leaders of community and will lead Tagum City to new heights of success," she said.

As incentive to the donors, Fadul furthered that the donors may avail of the tax incentives under the Adopt-a-School Program of DepEd.

With the close partnership of the Local Chief Executive, Tagum City Local Government Unit (LGU) allocated 700 thousand from the budget of the locally-funded programs to provide the needs of the schools like the hand-washing facilities worth 5.9 million from the realigned Special Education Fund.

In addition to this, the LGU distributed construction materials and wall fans to 38 schools in the city worth 2.1 million from the annual budget of the LGU under the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE).

According to Mayor Rellon, these supplies were



already procured even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic as support to the DepEd's annual Brigada Eskwela (BE).

Private sectors have also poured notable donations to various schools in the city.

In Tagum City National High School (NHS), Smart Communications Inc. granted the school two-year free subscription to INFOCAST Application worth 120,000, lifetime free usage of Learning Management System called Dynamic Learning Program, and 10 units of Smart LTE pocket WiFi.

La Filipina NHS also received 50 pieces WiFi modem from Blackfighter Security Agency worth 50,000, 20 pieces WiFi modem from Hexat Mining Corporation and King Eagle Mining Exploration.

To support radio-based learning, 98.3 Gold FM allotted two-hour daily time slot for broadcast for a year worth 480,000 while Muzikhaus Lights and Sounds granted free rental of its LED wall, sounds, lights and video equipment for a year worth 120,000 to advocate DepEd's programs through various fora.

Mangga ES, Magugpo Pilot Central ES, Bincungcan ES,

Herculina Edig ES, and Pipisan Maug NHS are recipients of a duplicating machine from Tagum LGU to support the production of modules for distant learning.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) also committed free internet connection for Canocutan NHS, Luis L. Lina ES, and Herculina Edig ES during the BE Forum on July 10. **On preparing the struggling learners**

Magugpo Pilot CES launched the 3 o'clock Reading Habit to strengthen the reading skills and support the learners who have special reading needs. It is an 8-week reading program which runs from July 6 to August 14 aired through Facebook Live every 3:00 o'clock.

"School and teachers will take a lead in guiding learners to read at home in virtual way in order that reading will be prioritized on their daily household schedules. The non-readers and all the pupils will be motivated to participate and learn reading since it is an interactive program," Dr. Joy Jade E. Relos, the school's principal, said. // **D**



## Reading intervention: **The Samaleño teachers' tale**

By Charizma L. Ambrona

**A**nxiety. Fear. Uncertainty. These were just some of the descriptions brought about by Covid-19 pandemic as it threatened the entire Samal Island with its 22 positive cases.

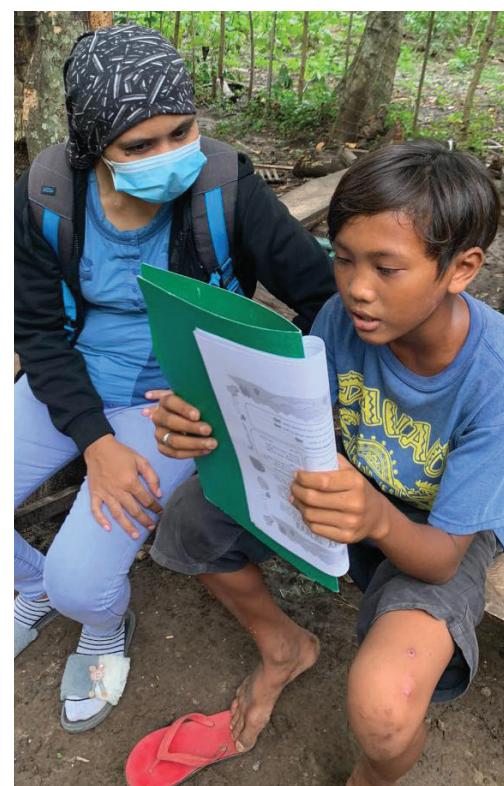
Shaken by this scenario, the various Samaleño communities bravely face the challenges more significantly the education sector as it braces on the way ahead of preparing the opening of classes on August 24. Through the leadership of SDS Winnie E. Batoon and ASDS Filomena M. Lopez, the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) was made together with the rest of the instructional leaders of the schools division.

One of the highlighted considerations in crafting the LCP is to help the 4,160 frustration readers and 206 non-readers from Grade 3-7 learners through

implementing the 8-Week Reading Curriculum of the I-RetL (I-Read-to-Live Reading Intervention Program) for the struggling readers of SY 2019-2020.

Because of the pandemic, the restrictions of the Inter-Agency Task Force Covid-19 (IATF-Samal) becomes a daunting task, yet obediently followed. And so, the tale of challenges, struggles, and victories of implementing the reading intervention of the Samaleño teachers begin.

"Every reading session is a struggle where we need to travel to remote and far-flung areas where stray dogs meet us on the streets and even welcome us with their loudest and ferocious barks. Traversing the muddy roads while riding motorcycles and risking our safety just to reach out and made certain that no one is left behind in



our school," Lira S. Rubio of San Agustin ES narrated.

Considering the location of the island division, these reading teachers were tested on the difficult terrain in going to the learners' houses to hand in the materials and do the reading sessions. Long period of climbing the hills and walking a rocky, or slippery and muddy roads also takes much of their time. Nonetheless, these never hinder them to serve their learners with considerable amount of patience, sacrifices and love for teaching.

"Most of the parents are very supportive and cooperative. If we ask for their help on the submission of the answered materials from their son or daughter, they would even deliver them to our school. They really give time to help their child," Evherjel Macapobre of Anonang NHS affirmed.

According to Mrs. Jacquelin Evardone of Libertad ES that it is very heartwarming during their weekly follow up because they have seen the improvement of the learners because of parental mentoring.

"Mas nindot ang nahimong resulta tungod kay eager kaayo sila nga mubasa tungod tingali kay naa ilang mga ginikanan nag-follow up jud nila (The result is good because they are very eager to learn reading because their parents are there to follow-up them)," Marichu Celestial of Camudmud ES said.

Furthermore, Lanimay Palacio of Mambago-B ES attested that the parents were very hospitable and accommodating because they



would give them something to bring home like flowers and bunches of bananas.

However, there are some parents who are also passive in the program especially those who do not know how to teach their child because they themselves do not know how to read. Some parents are also busy on earning a living and even the child himself would go fishing, farming, and do construction work to help the family.

"When we arrive at the house of our learner, we could not do our reading session, but we simply leave the materials for them to accomplish. Then we do another visit within the week for follow-up," Lene Necessario of Don Esteban Dasalla NHS said.

It is evident that a great support from the school heads significantly contributes to the feat of improving their

learners reading proficiencies as they join in the preparation and distribution of reading materials and even perform the reading sessions themselves.

The reading abilities of the identified learners have shown progress, and it is expected that before August 24, these learners could catch up with the demand of independent, self-paced learning using the blended modality or modular

instruction.

With the varied mechanisms on the delivery of the reading intervention done by each school in the island despite the restrictions and threat caused by the pandemic, SDO IGACOS firmly believes that no fear, no anxiety, no uncertainty and not a Covid-19 could stop learning among Samaleño learners. Sulong Edukalidad continues. **(D)**



## Education thru air waves

# Radyo Z-Eskwela takes off

by: KRISTIAN ANHARA MARTESSIO



Photo by: Roberto C. Jasura Jr.

DepEd Division of Davao de Oro has geared up another learning modality to be used in lieu of the traditional face-to-face classes of school children to keep up with the demands of the new normal in the educational sphere,

The Radio -based Instruction will be used as a prime learning modality to balance other learning modalities offered for this school year namely the Blended Learning, Modular Distance Learning, the Online Distance Learning and TV-based Instruction.

Schools Division Superintendent Eufemia T. Gamutin, CESO V welcomed the partnership with Z Radio 88.5 Station as represented by Manuel Zamora Jr. through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding last June 29, 2020 to promote the on air education radio programming. This partnership was made possible through the initiative and generosity of the Representative of the District I of Davao de Oro Hon. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora, Vice Gov. Maria Carmen S. Zamora and Gov. Jayvee Tyron L. Uy.

The Radyo Z-eskwela Program was formally launched last July 8, 2020 with a contract signing of SDS Gamutin for DepEd, Manuel Zamora Jr. for Z Radio Station 88.5 and stakeholders, Engr. Rommel Gomito of Mitch Construction and Supply and Sofonias P. Gabonada Jr., authorized Representative of Tingog Partylist.



This was followed by Radyo Brigadahan and SDS Time with the Division Executive Committee: SDS Gamutin, OIC-ASDS Phoebe Gay L. Refamonte, Chief of the Curriculum Implementation Division Dr. Josie T. Bolofer, Chief of the School Governance and Operations Division Dr. Ruben T. Reponte and Administrative Section Head Engr. Norberto S. Manlangit.

The Radyo Z-Eskwela will enable Davao de Oro learners to continue working toward planned learning outcomes based on the Most Essential Learning Competencies.

"Through the radio-based instruction, we can extinguish even the farthest barangay in the province because we still mean to cater to the needs of the learners even those who are located in far-flung barangays.", according to SDS Gamutin.

"With this RBI, our teachers will be providing opportunities for learning through the air waves. This would be challenging not only for our learners but also for our parents.", she added.

She also emphasized the strength of the program specially when blended with other modalities such as modular learning, online learning and TV-based instruction.

"Kung ang usa ka lesson, gitudlo sa online, gitudlo sa radio, gitudlo siya sa tv-based, naa pod siya sa modular, mahimong upat ka opportunities na magamit sa usa ka bata diha sa pag-reinforce sa iyahang pagtuon."

(If one lesson is taught online, taught on radio, taught on tv and there is also the module, there are four opportunities that can be used by the learner to reinforce his learning.)



Photo by: Juan T. Escutia

The ZRadio station has also an application that will allow learners to revisit the recorded instruction through Facebook. Learners who already have their laptops or computers and have connectivity in their homes can easily review the lessons as being conducted by the teacher.

The use of radio to deliver curriculum and learning is a widely available, accessible and economical medium as compared to other learning platforms. The main equipment needed for this modality is the transistor radio which is more affordable in comparison with laptops or tablets used for online classes. In the survey conducted by Deped DdO last April 2020 majority of the households in the province already have radios in the homes.

With the global pandemic still posing an unthinkable threat to the health of the learners, DepEd Davao de Oro and Z Radio 88.5 Station have taken a great leap in using the educational radio as an important link to learning while waiting for the eventual transition of learners back to school.

## Movement amidst pandemic

# DDO eyes TVBI launch

by: JADE KAREN R. ARAIZ



Photo by: Medard T. Apit

Six months ago, nobody would have guessed that schools would be empty by now. Nobody would have thought that School Year 2020 – 2021 would open in a very non-traditional way. Just when the Department of Education has reached the peak of achieving Education For All, nobody would have imagined that the country would be facing this present dilemma – the access to education.

School opening might have been delayed, but DepEd is already on the move in providing the Filipino learners alternative ways of learning. One of the learning modalities that DepEd – Division of Davao de Oro is planning to tap is the use of Television – Based Instruction (TVBI).

"We introduced TVBI since we have many visual learners. Also, this will cater those with special needs like the deaf and the mute as they can see even the sign language translation over the screen," stated Dr. Josie T. Bolofer, CID Chief and the Head of the Program Implementation, explaining the diversity of learners and the Department's urge to provide equal access to all.

Bolofer also emphasized that TVBI does not only target the learners with special needs but all the regular learners from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

"The program is intended for those learners who have preferred TVBI as surveyed by our schools during the enrollment and survey period," she added.

While the program is still about to begin its first phase, Dr. Bolofer has shared the initial plans of the division. According to her, they are still on the process of putting up all steps before setting it with the stakeholders. She also mentioned that they will soon put into legal binding their partnership with the Provincial Government of Davao de Oro.

"In the initial agreement and advised by the station team, we will also be airing the lesson presentation via Facebook Live Streaming though the actual teaching will be pre-recorded," Dr. Bolofer explained.

Initial steps as everything may be, the Division of Davao de Oro has taken its first big leap in exploring TVBI when they aired a test-reach last July 6, 10 am through Serbisyo Oro Misimo (SOM) and the Facebook Page DepEd Tayo – Division of Davao de Oro. The test-reach was done to verify how wide the signal of SOM can reach; however, it was channeled through FB Live to check if the learners can also access the lesson presentation.

The Kindergarten TVBI test-reach was able to gather more than 4,000 views with Donna Dee T. Bolofer as the acting teacher.



While TVBI makes learning more accessible to our learners, how about on the part of the teachers? Does it mean they will have to go beyond being a classroom teacher and evolve into a TV personality?

"We will be selecting a different team of content developers and another team of content presenters but these will still be finally organized upon our presentation to the Executive Committee," Dr. Josie T. Bolofer expressed, assuring that not every teacher of the division will have to do the task.

TVBI is just one of the four learning modalities presented by DepEd in lieu of the face-to-face mode of instruction. It can be recalled that the teachers of the Division of Davao de Oro are the first team to have participated in a webinar on The New Normal Classroom Modality Teaching which trained them how to do online and offline teaching.

The division has also launched the Radyo Z-eskwela in partnership of Z Radio, July 8, to supplement the accessibility of learning through the practical use of radio.

This just goes to say that even when facing a global pandemic, education should not be dismissed. The government must still not stop its advocacy in promoting quality and accessible education for all.



**DepEd DavSur:**

# A giant leap for endless learning

By Ruben Asan

The Division of Davao del Sur assured all stakeholders that school year 2020-2021 would continue despite the national health crisis as Schools Division Superintendent Nelson C. Lopez said education could withstand the risks of COVID-19.

"Our policies and actions in the Division of Davao del Sur guarantee the coming school year will push through as planned because we believe the

delivery of quality education can defy the threats of the pandemic," Lopez said.

Responding to the current public health emergency, the Division made sure schools, while preparing for the opening of classes, would adhere to the guidelines set by the national government.

The alternative work arrangements of teaching and non-teaching personnel were adopted and health protocols were observed. Hand washing facilities were installed in schools, alcohol and sanitizers were made available, wearing of face masks and social distancing were imposed, and checking of body



temperature was done before entering the school premises.

Since physical contact among personnel would violate government health standards, webinars or online seminars were conducted and teachers were able to participate even at home. These webinars equipped teachers and other personnel with necessary tools needed for this school year.

Various teaching modalities are prepared to cater the needs of the learners as face-to-face learning is temporarily prohibited. Technologies

for online and offline learning, TV and radio-based instruction, modular instructions, and blended learning were discussed and will be adopted on the opening of classes on August 24.

"Our office prepares teachers and the rest of our personnel for the new normal setup of education and we are certain COVID-19, with all the health protocols observed and done, cannot hinder DepEd to continue providing education to learners," Lopez explained.

To protect learners and parents, remote



enrollment and drop box enrollment were done since June 1 and would continue until July 15. Enrollment was done in various ways depending on the learner's current situation. This will also be the case on the conduct of learning in the coming school year.

"Selected teachers through the assistance of our education program supervisors are designing learning modules and worksheets for our learners, where the 1st Quarter in all learning areas is 100 percent accomplished and the other quarters are on its way to completion. We are also preparing educational videos and tapping the support of our local media networks to offer varied teaching modalities that will fit to our learners," the superintendent said.

As of the moment, there are five active local radio stations that will offer free time slots for online learning or dubbed as the "Education on Air". These local radio stations are located within the province of Davao del Sur.

"Radyo Ni Juan" based in Bansalan will be allotting two hours free time slot; "Radyo Uokay" with one hour free time slot; "DABIGC", "Charm Radio" and Meuws Radio" are now for final signing of the Memorandum of

Agreement and all based in Digos City.

To elevate the condition of the different schools in the division from normal to new normal and to ensure the health and safety of the students, the division has generated a grand total donation and an approved budget allocation from the provincial Special Education Fund (SEF) amounting to 14,075,264 pesos.

The cash amount of 12,350,000 million is an approved budget from the SEF while the remaining total amount of 1,725,264 pesos is a donation in a form of cash, health kits, cleaning tools, and learning materials.

These donations in cash and materials were face masks, face shields, hand soaps, alcohol, health kits, cleaning tools, learning kits, multi-vitamins, and reading materials. Donors were from the different private and non-government organizations and the local government units, especially from the SEF of the province of Davao del Sur headed by Governor Douglas RA. Cagas.

Amidst the pandemic, the Division has already reached 81,236 enrollees as of July 7. These learners will now be the priority of the division in the opening of classes. **(D)**

## Editor's Notes

# Defying the odds

This is the worst of times.

It looks like it is not going to be over as this pandemic continues to wreck havoc to the world.

A small nation like ours bears the brunt of hardships as our resources are scarce. The most affected is our human resource, especially the young.

DepEd, the bureaucracy that forms and educates the young, faces this challenge head on. It cannot be paralyzed by this pandemic.

In this issue, one reads the many good stories of teachers and leaders walking extra miles to help and reach out to all learners and families in the communities despite the odds.

Defying the odds, DepEd mobilized its people to prepare for the different learning modalities. No glory without sacrifice. So, teachers made sacrifices for their learners and their

parents. So heartwarming to know that each division is moving heaven and hell to serve DepEd's little ones.

This is what defines the vocation of teachers. They may not be in their classrooms, but they are in their homes busy preparing their modules and lesson exemplars.

You see the initiatives of each division to serve parents and people during the lockdown. Teachers have become so creative as to transform their empty lots into vegetable and flower gardens.

You see supervisors leading some of their teachers in providing assistance to front liners on duty. So heartwarming. So selfless of them.

As we pray earnestly for this pandemic to vanish, we pray that each one in DepEd has all the courage to face this seemingly formidable foe.

But as they said, we can because we can. We will prevail as one. **(D)**



Relief packs to families were given as they cope with the restrictions during the ECQ.

# DepEd Mati: Defying odds, touching lives

By Wilbert Edgil R. Romena & Charry Mae B. Magdula

Everyone is wrapped with fears and uncertainties as the menace of COVID-19 horribly enters and knocks the world out. Like in a theatrical play, the stage is unexpectedly filled with unforeseen horror; a dreadful setting secluding the characters in confusion, hopelessness, and anguish. Amidst these cruel hardships that the whole world has been through, heroes have to get up and face the battlefield.

Despite the ominous threat of danger and uncertainty lurking since the World

Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global health emergency, the Schools Division Office (SDO) of the City of Mati brims the ambient atmosphere with the melodies of sacrifice and generosity. Headed by OIC-SDS Alona C. Uy, all the personnel from the schools and division office fearlessly provided lifeline for their learners and the general community. Emblazoned in them their genuine concern for others and commitment to serve.

"No matter what, our



DepEd SDO Mati readies for the multimodal delivery over the Radio with its daily program in DXVD 90.3 FM.

services shall continue." This is the unified expression of commitment by the 1,590 teaching and non-teaching forces of the SDO of Mati City. With inspiration and resiliency in this time of pandemic, all the division personnel and teachers can tell everyone their stories on how they emerged as educators - at the forefront of inspiring and teaching resiliency. The leaders resounded this commitment with no less than the SDS issuing marching orders: "There is a need for the division to continue the effort and initiative of the Department of Education."

#### **Responsive in community's welfare**

Committing their energy and resources for their faith and love, all the teachers are one with the goal of "continuing partnership endeavors to address the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic," as described by Fritzie A. Aparra, a division nurse, on the various initiatives of the division.

The SDO has distributed relief packs on April 21-23. More initiatives are underway to continue the School-based Feeding Program after the Division forged an agreement with the Provincial Science & Technology Center and the Food and Nutrition Research

Institute on July 9. The partnership with the Local Government Unit- City of Mati and Jollibee Foundation in the provision of the manpower, the Central Kitchen facility and the transportation to distribute the hot meals, nutrifood packs and milk is sustained.

Psychological First Aid Webinar sessions to Senior High School students from private and public schools on June 16 and to Barangay Frontline Health Workers on May 5-12 in various villages within the City were conducted. The SDO also provided Psychological First Aid on June 5 over the DXVD 90.3 Dino Radio.

#### **Responsive in providing safe environment and learning continuity**

Embedded in the Division Memorandum No. 121, s. 2020 which enjoined the implementation of the minimum health standards is the commitment of the SDO to respond to the need of providing safe environment for learners and teachers. With this, validations on the health protocol and washing facilities were made on June 9-30. This drive has gained the support of the Department of Tourism Region XI Director Tanya R. Tan who will be donating substantial quantities of



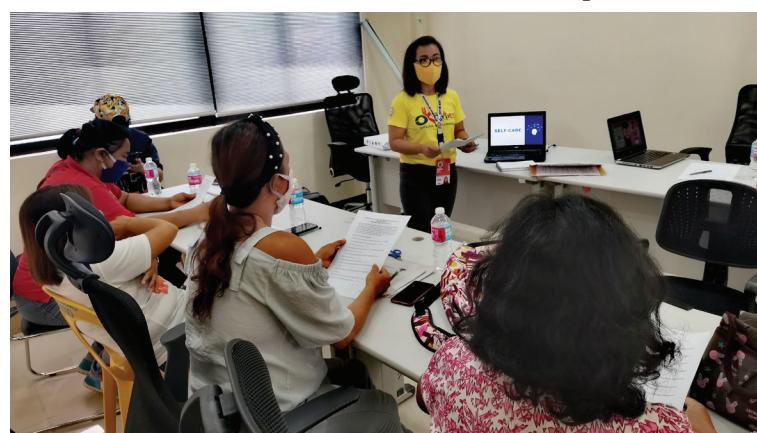
*OIC-SDS Alona C. Uy tossed up to the LGU Mati the call for learning continuity support in the Sangguniang Panglungsod Regular Session*

disinfectant and hygiene items to schools.

To prepare the schools for the #NewNormal, the SDO has made breakthroughs in preparing the offering of the multimodal instruction. It is continually in engagement with the proprietors of radio stations like Sunrise FM (Xander Paul B. Alcantara) and Radyo Natin (Raul M. Antopuesto). Subsequent signing of Memorandum of Agreement shall be done soon for the free airtime of DepEd's Radio-Based Instruction.

Furthermore, the SDO has engaged with Vice-Mayor Glenda Rabat-Gayta for the reproduction of the Learning Modules; Mayor Michelle N. Rabat for the Feeding Program initiatives; Congressman Mayo Almario for the on-going school projects; and even the Sangguniang Kabataan and Liga ng mga Barangay for ensuring the sustainability of the Learning Continuity Plan.

It has also inked agreements with the Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) to rechannel the deployment of Field Study



*Fritzie A. Aparra shares ideas during one of the Psychological First Aid activities for barangay frontliners.*

students for tutorials and to hold GAD Webinar Series. This was agreed between DOrSU and SDO last June 23, 2020. As for the online distance learning, the Curriculum Implementation Division is ensuring that teachers are capacitated in the various platforms for online learning by supporting the Webinar series conducted by the DepEd Central Office and the Regional Office.

Wisp of confusion or uncertainty is threatening our inner peace and cause fear. However, the SDO stands firm on its mantra to not let any negativity and resource limitations to hinder us from where we would like to go and from what we would like to achieve; rooting its confidence on the armor of faith and sword of hope. Amazed by the humanity's resolve to conquer any crises with God's grace, the SDO City of Mati is still at the forefront in this pandemic alongside our modern heroes.

(With photos from Dr. Leorisyl D. Siarot, Joan A. Cereno, Fritzie A. Aparra, Christian R. Alfuerzo)



# Digos City: Widening horizons

By Louiel Jay Concepcion



In a blink of an eye and a gasp of breath, the haven, where we see a panorama of curiosity, hear squeals of laughter, and feel a warm embrace of transformation, has shut its doors and the rest is history.



SDS Cristy Epe faces the camera for her message.

An enemy we cannot see has rippled a domino effect not only in the education sector but also repercussions in every aspect of life we have taken advantage of. For the world has been exceedingly clutched to the shackles of virtual platforms, the pandemic has casted its spell for humanity to glimpse on the world only through devices and gadgets in this era we call the new normal.

Being hurled by storm and wounded by shards, a bird will always flap its wings again and rise from the

rubbles of devastation. Just like how DepEd tailored modalities so students across the country can acquire a dose of learning despite the strong winds of adversities blowing.

In the city of Digos, a Cable TV Provider agreed to offer two channels for DepEd-Digos to air its TV-based instructions (TVI). Plus, plans like RadioSkwela (Radio-based instructions or RBI) and MoSkwela (Modular Delivery) are laid out for the students who are incapable of online learning.

Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Melanie Estacio said Digos City Division created content and production teams for TV and radio instructions among their teacher talents.

"We scouted and auditioned talents. We gave the worksheet from lesson script writing, story boarding and filming. We partnered with Mr. Jun Blanco for production of RBI and TVI," she added.

Blanco is the owner of Kakampi radio station and a Board Member of Davao del



Sur province. The ASDS said focusing on preparing needed materials.

Sur Telemedia, a local cable channel in Digos City, gave them two channels for free use.

“These will be managed by Deped Digos 24 hours and 7 days a week,” the educational leader said.

For RBI, Estacio said, Digos City has seven radio stations that will give two-hour airing time every day.

“We will produce our RBI and TVI locally while waiting for national RBI and TVI materials,” the

As much as how parents play a significant role, the cooperation of private sectors and local government units are building blocks to upholding inclusivity and ensuring that no one will be left behind in quality home-based learning.

DepEd is expecting 80 percent enrollment turnout for school year 2020-2021 and also expecting an influx of transferees from private to public schools with many families suffering from loss of livelihoods.

(D)





# Davao Occidental: Adapting to the new normal

By Molky P. Marjoni

After the proclamation of health crisis throughout the country, all classes were suspended to ensure the safety and well-being of teachers and students, but Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Lorenzo E. Mendoza immediately created the Division Task Force to

monitor the activities, help mitigate the spread of the disease and other related activities about COVID-19, and provide updates as to the health status of the learners and teachers.

Following the health protocols, the Division Memorandum No. 000105 s. 2020 titled "Reiteration on

the Guidelines for Preventive Measures for COVID-19" was issued providing medical and legal basis on the actions and decisions pertaining to the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the vicinity of schools, learning centers, and offices in the entire division.

Division Memorandum on "Mandatory Self-Quarantine for Personnel and Learners with Travel History Both Local and Abroad" was also issued right after learning that various personnel and students who were sent to participate national events amidst the pronouncement

of the outbreak of Corona Virus Disease.

Participants were directed to self-isolate for 14 days without having physical contact with their colleagues and loved ones to ensure the safety of everyone. Likewise, personnel and students with travel history abroad for personal reasons had undergone the same isolation process.

Adapting the alternative work arrangement set by the Civil Service Commission is one of the best strategies to minimize the workforce in the workplace, thus making a low possibility of getting infected with the virus.



After the issuance of Executive Order No. 21, s. 2020 of the Provincial Capitol of Davao Occidental, an order declaring community quarantine within its jurisdiction, the Schools Division Office immediately ordered the suspension of physical transactions in all schools and offices effective March 19 until ECQ is lifted. Thereby, all personnel were instructed to work from home and all office transactions shall be done online except for extreme cases where onsite reporting particularly the health and finance strands is required.

For the rarest opportunity in the history, employees were given the privilege to work from home while receiving the exact and advance salary and other benefits without deductions from loans. Daily output were to be sent to online attendance as means to verify if employees were performing their jobs.

It was on May 3 when physical reporting for non-teaching personnel was allowed but not required. Only employees who reside in Davao Occidental were allowed to report onsite while those who live outside the province are advised to work from home since public transportations are still on temporary suspension and provincial border is closed.

Skeleton work scheme is still applied where employees

report only for three days in a week. Still, the office is not admitting clients inside while community quarantine is not lifted. Each employee observes office health protocol in times of pandemic.

The division became more active in online transactions. Senior High School provisional teachers whose contract expired during the outbreak submitted their pertinent documents for renewal through email. It becomes a win-win solution for both party that addresses the need of not having physical contact while transacting.

Since virtual is the new trend, meetings and trainings were both held online utilizing Google Meet, Zoom, Streamyard, Telegram Facebook and any other platforms to reach the personnel. SDS Mendoza's expertise in technology also helps a lot.

Instructional videos both for Curriculum and Governance were created and were uploaded to various social media sites of the Division particularly in Facebook and Youtube under the name Schools Division of Davao Occidental to the province's two local radio stations (Radyo Natin and Radyo Kamagi) to inform the public of the initiative done by the Office and to relay to the parents about the



detailed information on the opening of classes.

global pandemic.

A province wide initiative jointly collaborated by the local government units of the province, municipalities and barangays and their respective Local School Boards support the Learning Continuity Plan of the Division and the learning modalities to be offered to the learners during the opening of classes on August 24 dubbed as Edukasyon POSIBLE (Province wide Opportunities for Success Intensified to Boost Learners' Education) sa Davao Occidental. (D)

## Notes from the Regional Director



**I**t looks like we have a sudden shift of everything. From the traditional classroom set-up that we have

since time immemorial, we are suddenly moving up to another level. Yes, it is so sudden that some of us are still discerning whether we can cope up with all these changes.

Whether we like it or not, we have to adjust for this coming school year. If there is one thing that's good in the word "positive" during this pandemic, it is our being positive to face all these challenges in our teaching-learning process.

We can make things happen. We can even make learning more fun and exciting. But first, we have to accept that we need new strategies this time. We have to remind ourselves that creativity and innovation are our dear partners now.

We are happy that the remote enrollment, which started last June 1, shows that learners and parents are interested in the new school year. We have registered more than one million learners already.

Because we want education to continue despite the presence of COVID-19 cases, DepEd has looked into other learning modalities. Since there will be no face-to-face classes until there's no vaccine or medicine for COVID-19, we will have online learning, modules or printed kits, and the use of TV and radio.

In our region, the survey we conducted shows that our learners, teachers, and parents prefer modular learning. These modules may be in digital or printed forms.

We have developed our Learning Management System (LMS) which will become the repository of quality assured modules and those being used by the past and those with e-Skwela under ALS. We, therefore, need upskilling on virtual teaching and learning.

With our ongoing preparation for modular distance learning and blended learning, our knowledge and skills on ICT will be a great advantage. For the self-learning modules using digital format where we will use either a computer, tablet, smart phones and online distance learning where we need internet connectivity, our teachers should be adept with the use of LMS.

It is a reality that not all teachers are tech-savvy. Our young teachers who were born in the times when new technology was rising may be proficient in the use of computers. But what about those who did not get that chance to really learn the use of computers or did not have the opportunity to explore at all?

I know there is no such thing as too late for all of us. We can still learn new things. We can always explore. But yes, we need mentors so we will be guided well. And to those who were already trained, you are expected to pay forward what you have learned.

You have to train those who need the skills. Share what you have learned. We are in one Department here. We have one mission. We have one direction.

I know that there is a heavy task ahead of us now. As we continue to prepare for the opening of classes on August 24, let us also continue to stay safe. The priority of DepEd is still the health and safety of learners and teachers. So, please take extra precautions. While doing this, do not allow to be paralyzed because of the fear of this virus. We still have to move. We still have to face our responsibilities.

I will continue to pray that we will all be covered with God's protection as we prepare for the coming school year. Keep safe everyone and God bless.



*"A happy supervisor and a happy school head would mean happy teachers. Happy teachers and happy parents would also mean happy learners. I sincerely thank all the teachers for being so actively engaged in all the preparations for the opening of classes."*

— Assistant Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion

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