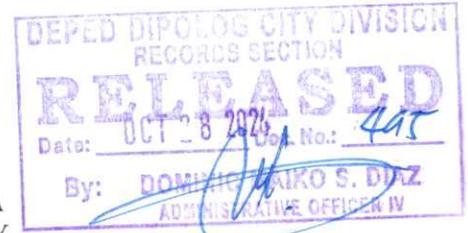




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IX – ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIPOLOG CITY



October 15, 2024

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 495, s. 2024

**PREVENTION OF EXPLOITATIVE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING LEARNERS AND
REITERATION OF RELEVANT DEPED POLICIES**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors, SGOD and CID
OSDS, CID, and SGOD Personnel
Elementary and Secondary School Principals
Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel
This Division

1. This memorandum serves as guidance on **prevention of exploitative activities involving learners in all public schools within the City Schools Division of Dipolog**, whether in curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular programs, as these activities not only violate in varying degrees of DepEd policies, namely, *Gender-Responsive Basic Education Policy*, *Child Protection Policy*, and *Guidance on the Required Health Standards in Basic Education Offices and Schools*, with a particular focus on Mental Health.
2. This memorandum further reiterates the abovementioned policies, emphasizing that schools must actively engage all stakeholders in promoting the mental well-being and gender development of our learners, fostering a positive, child-friendly environment, and protecting them from potential cases of physical and online sexual abuse.
3. This Division commits to the prevention of exploitative activities involving learners, which may not only contravene Constitutional mandates and Philippine laws but also compromise the integrity and well-being of learners. Such activities include:
 - conducting beauty pageants or similar activities in schools that emphasize a distorted standard of beauty and encourage attire that unduly exposes a minor's body to the public, thereby compromising the inherent dignity and respect owed to all learners;
 - forcing learners to participate in any activity, whether for monetary or nonmonetary incentives, or offering academic credit in exchange for participation, coerces learners into situations they may not be comfortable with;
 - posting images or graphics of learners, whether digitally created or manually crafted, on public social media accounts without explicit consent, exposing them to risks of online sexual exploitation or misuse of their images in inappropriate contexts, amplifying the potential for image-based sexual abuse; and
 - organizing and conducting schoolwide activities that restrict participation on the basis of gender.
4. School heads are advised to arrange meetings for their teaching and non-teaching personnel, with the agenda of advocating Child Protection, GAD, and Mental Health



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IX – ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIPOLOG CITY

policies. These sessions should include a review of the respective DepEd Orders and policy guidelines, to ensure that the principles of gender equality and inclusivity, mental well-being, and learner protection are consistently applied in all school activities.

5. The reiteration of the policies mentioned is consistent with the DepEd's vision, mission, values, and mandate, and shall remain in force and in effect unless repealed, amended, or rescinded.

6. As an alternative to beauty pageants, the **Campus Ambassadors Project (CAP)** is introduced under the upcoming Batang Dipag United Program. This ambassadorship initiative is more closely aligned with the Department's programs, projects, and activities (PPAs), **fostering advocacy-driven leadership, character development, and inclusivity**. CAP serves as a cost-effective alternative, prioritizing meaningful advocacy and leadership over extravagance and superficiality. A separate memorandum will be issued to provide the detailed guidelines for the CAP.

7. All issuances inconsistent with this Memorandum are repealed.

8. For clarifications and inquiries regarding this issuance, all concerned parties are directed to coordinate with the SGOD-Learner Rights and Protection Unit. Contact:

- Cielbert E. Dondoyano Jr.
Project Development Officer I
Mobile No.: 09565909773
Messenger: Cielbert Dondoyano Jr.

9. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum is directed.


MA. LIZA R. TABILON EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent