



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CARAGA REGION

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REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **1127**, s. 2024

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

**PARTICIPATION IN THE FILIPINO CHILD: AN ONLINE DIALOGUE ON
STRENGTHENING THE MENTAL HEALTH SAFETY PLANS
IN SCHOOLS**

1. The ABS CBN Foundation Bantay Bata 163 has committed to helping schools and communities build an environment that is safe for children through one of its core projects, *Project MIND* which seeks to promote and raise awareness on mental health and address gaps in mental health provision through the capacity building of volunteer mental health and psychosocial support service providers.
2. In this regard, there will be an online dialogue with community partners and stakeholders, *The Filipino Child (TFC)*, on November 4, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon via Zoom, which seeks to foster discussions to provide information on suicide prevention and service provision to learners, and ultimately guiding schools in creating a school-based suicide prevention and response plan.
3. Division and School Mental Health Focal Persons, and Schools Heads are enjoined to participate in this activity and must confirm their attendance through this link: https://bit.ly/RegistrationForm_TheFilipinoChild on or before November 4, 2024.
4. Attached is a copy of the letter from ABS CBN Foundation for your reference.
5. For your information and dissemination.

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION
Director III
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Regional Director

Encl.: NONE

Reference: Letter from ABS CBN Foundation dated October 14, 2024

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

HEALTH EDUCATION

ESSD/jcc
10/22/2024



Address: J.P. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
Trunkline No: (082) 225-1151
Telefax No: (085) 342-5959
Email: caraga@deped.gov.ph
Website: caraga.deped.gov.ph



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In the Service of the Filipino

October 14, 2024

DR. MARIA INES C. ASUNCION

OIC-Regional Director
DepEd Caraga Regional Office
J.P. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City

DEAR **DR. ASUNCION**,

Greetings!

For the past 27 years, Bantay Bata 163 has continued its commitment to helping schools and communities build an environment that is safe for children - where their rights are protected, and where their mental health is valued. These initiatives are carried out in collaboration with government and non-government agencies, as well as academic institutions, to ensure the success and effective service delivery to the community.

Currently, we have concentrated our efforts on providing support through our four core projects: (1) the **Bantay Bata Helpline 163**, a helpline that is dedicated to responding to and providing support to any child-related concerns; (2) the **Child Safe Philippines Project**, which aims to guide and capacitate schools and communities in creating a localized Child Protection Policy, Programs and reporting Protocols; (3) the **Children and Youth Advocacy Council**, a project that highlights the importance of child participation in the development of programs for and by the children; and (4) **Project MIND** which seeks to promote and raise awareness on mental health and tries to address the gaps in mental health provision through capacity building of volunteer mental health and psychosocial support service providers.

In implementing one of our projects, particularly Project MIND, we have seen the importance of raising awareness about mental health among students and their families to break the stigma associated with it, as well as **strengthening the mental health safety plans in schools** for students experiencing mental health and other psychosocial difficulties. Schools, particularly junior and senior high schools, have expressed the need for mental health services for learners who have expressed suicidal ideations and in preventing and responding to cases of suicide in schools. In line with this, we are organizing the third year of implementation of **THE FILIPINO CHILD** on **November 8, 2024 (Friday), 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN** via **Zoom**.

Gina Lopez Bldg., Mo. Ignacia Ave.,
cor. E. Lopez Drive,
Quezon City, 1103 Philippines
(632) 3415 2272 local 3792/3794
www.abs-cbnfoundation.com



In the Service of the Filipino

Started in 2022, **The Filipino Child (TFC)**, is an online dialogue with community partners and stakeholders that provides a platform for open and inclusive discussions to raise awareness and address the pressing issues affecting children and youth. This year's National Dialogue seeks to foster discussions to provide information on suicide prevention and service provision to learners, and ultimately guide the schools in creating a school-based suicide prevention and response plan.

In line with this, we are delighted to invite schools from your Division to participate in this year's The Filipino Child. Interested school participants may **confirm their attendance** through this link https://bit.ly/RegistrationForm_TheFilipinoChild on or before **November 4, 2024**.

For any concerns or inquiries, please feel free to contact our Program Officer, Ms. Rhiza Mateo, through her email: REMateo@abs-cbnfoundation.com or SMS/Viber at 0907-777-7225.

Your involvement in this dialogue is a vital step toward promoting a more supportive environment that prioritizes children's mental health.

Thank you very much

In the Service of the Filipino children,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Levi Ambon-Rota".

LEVI AMBON-ROTA, RSW

Program Head

ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. - Bantay Bata 163