DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 178, series of 2018

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS, AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

TO: Division Chiefs
    Public Schools District Supervisors
    Elementary, Junior and Senior High School Heads

1. Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 28, s. 2016 entitled “Strengthening the Fire Safety and Awareness Program”, the Department of Education aims to establish specific roles, responsibilities, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the fire safety and awareness program of schools.

2. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Department of Education Schools Division of Digos City and Bureau of Fire Protection, Digos City Fire Station on the fire safety of all educational occupancies prior to the opening of classes for school year 2018-2019, schools are hereby directed to coordinate with the City Fire Marshals to the conduct of Fire Safety Inspections and Prevention Programs during the Brigada Eskwela Week and once during the semester break.

3. The activities aim to:
   a. ensure the safety and welfare of the students, teachers, school administrators and other school occupants through fire safety lectures, fire drills and fire safety inspections in all public elementary and secondary schools; and
   b. develop set of guidelines for fire safety inspection as well as alternative/interim set of rules in accordance with the formal requirements of the Fire Code.

4. The following instructions were agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding:
   a. Division Office shall provide with a list of all public elementary and secondary schools to be inspected by BFP, and where fire safety and prevention drills will be conducted;
   b. Schools to accommodate BFP inspectors during the Brigada Eskwela Week and one during the semester break, and send an official report to the Division Office to ensure compliance with BFP recommendations; and
   c. School Heads to submit a report of violations/deficiencies noted during inspection to the Division Office, through Division DRRM Coordinator, for appropriate action

5. Attached is a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for your reference and guidance.

6. Wide and prompt dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

Ends:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

References:
D.O. 28, s. 2016

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

GOVERNANCE
DRRM
MOU

ROM: Fire Safety Inspections, Awareness and Prevention Programs
22 February 2018

Roxas Street cor. Lopez Jaena Street, Zone II, Digos City 8002 ☏ (082) 553-8286 | (082) 553-8378 | (082) 563-8170 | (082) 553-8375
Fax: (082) 553-8376 • www.digoseducation.org • digos.city@deped.gov.ph
WINNIE E. BATOO, EdD, CESE
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

For and in the absence of the SDS:

FRANCIS JUDE D. ALCOMENDRAS
Administrative Officer V
Officer-In-Charge

Enclos: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
References: D.O. 28, s. 2016
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

GOVERNANCE DRRM MOU

ROM: Fire Safety Inspections, Awareness and Prevention Programs
22 February 2018
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) entered into this 13th day of February, 2018, in Digos City, Philippines, by and between:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIGOS CITY, a national government agency created under Philippine laws with office at Roxas Extension corner Lopez Jaena Street, Digos City, represented herein by Schools Division Superintendent, WINNIE E. BATOON, EdD, CESE, hereinafter referred to as “DepEd”.

and

BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, DIGOS CITY FIRE STATION, a government agency under the Department of the Interior and Local Government with office at Lapu-Lapu Street, Digos City, represented herein by City Fire Marshal, Sr.Insp. Carlos T. Gallego, hereinafter referred to as “BFP”;

WITNESSETH: That

WHEREAS, DepEd annually conducts the National Schools Maintenance Week, also known as “Brigada Eskwela” which aims to prepare all public elementary and secondary schools in the country for the opening of classes;

WHEREAS, DepEd recognizes the importance of the conduct of the fire safety inspections and fire prevention programs and drills in all of its schools as part of its preparation for school opening;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), which is under the supervision of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), is responsible for the prevention and suppression of all destructive fires through rigid fire safety inspections, conduct of fire prevention education programs and drills, and extension of medical assistance to victims of fire, accidents, and other related hazards;

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the foregoing premises, and subject to the undertakings hereinafter provided, the Parties hereto have agreed, as follows:

I. UNDERTAKINGS

DepEd shall:

1. Issue an official communication (memorandum) to all its schools informing them of the partnership with BFP on fire safety, with the following instructions:

   a. For the Division office to provide with a list of all public elementary and secondary schools to be inspected by BFP, and where fire safety and prevention drills will be
conducted; send BFP's assessment results to the DepEd Regional Office, through the Regional DRRM Coordinator;

b. For the schools to accommodate BFP inspectors during the Brigada Eskwela Week and one during semestral break, and send an official report to the Division office to ensure compliance with BFP recommendations;

c. For the School Heads to submit a report of violations/deficiencies noted during inspection to the Division Office, through Division DRRM Coordinator, for appropriate action;

2. DepEd through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management focal shall come-up with a holistic and sustainable master plan to address findings arising from BFP’s assessment; and

3. DepEd shall provide support or interventions apt for the findings of BFP, subject to availability of resources.

BFP shall:

1. Conduct fire safety lectures and drills to all students, teaching and non-teaching personnel, of all elementary and secondary schools before the opening of every school year;

2. Schedule lecture and drills at least four times (4x) every school year, which shall be participated by teachers and students;

3. Ensure the conduct of fire safety inspection in all public elementary and secondary schools twice a year, one during the "Brigada Eskwela Week" and one towards the latter half of the school year preferably during semestral break, in close coordination with the DepEd Division Office and schools to be inspected;

4. Immediately notify within 3 days from the submission of After Inspection Report to the concerned City Fire Marshal the school head of the fire safety violations/decencies/defects of the school. As used herein, violations/defects/deficiencies shall mean and/or pertain to fire safety measures not incorporated in school building, which is required under the RA 9514 otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008 and its implementing rules and regulations, or any prohibited acts or omissions defined thereof;

5. Develop a set of guidelines for the fire safety inspection and the school's compliance with the recommendation that are more appropriate but will not compromise the safety and security of the occupants and the structure subject to the provisions of the Fire Code; and,

6. Develop an alternative or interim set of rules, in consultation with DepEd which shall observed by the latter pending compliance with the formal requirements of the Fire Code.
Both Parties shall:
Agree on a permanent tie-up to implement sustainable program on fire safety, and not merely involvement in seasonal or activity-based engagement.

II. AMENDMENTS

This Memorandum of Understanding contains the entire agreement of the parties with respect to fire safety at schools and supersedes all prior agreements and understanding with respect thereto. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended only in writing duly signed by authorized representatives of the parties involved.

III. EFFECTIVITY AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signing hereof by the parties concerned in preparation for the opening of School Year 2018-2019 and shall remain in force until terminated at any time by service of notice to the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereunto set their hands in the place and dated above written.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIGOS CITY

WINNIE E. BATOON, EdD, CESE
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION
DIGOS CITY FIRE STATION

SR. INSPECTOR CARLOS T. GALLEGO
City Fire Marshal

WITNESSES:

REYZEN O. MONSERATE, RN, MAN
Project Development Officer II/Division DRRM Coordinator
Department of Education
Schools Division of Digos City

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FEB 13 2018