DepEd’s Response to Strengthen Preventive Drug Education in Schools

To: CID and SGOD Chiefs
   Education Program Supervisors
   Public Schools District Supervisors
   Division Health and Nutrition Personnel
   School Principals/Officers-in-Charge

1. Attached is a Regional Memorandum dated November 21, 2019 with DepEd Memorandum DM-PHRODFO 2019-00984 from Hon. Diosdado M. San Antonio, Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction, relative to the DepEd’s Response to Strengthen Preventive Drug Education in Schools, which includes the following:
   a. Classification of Drugs
   b. Prevention of Drug and misuse and abuse
   c. Harmful side effects and long-term consequences of drug abuse
   d. Signs and symptoms of drug abuse
   e. Referral of cases to appropriate authorities for provision of intervention.

2. In connection thereof, this Office expects of the following:
   a. That Education Program Supervisors or Public Schools District Supervisors assigned as Subject Holders shall make initiatives for the provision of technical assistance to the field particularly on the integration of topics on Preventive Drug Education in particular competencies.
   b. That School Heads, together with their teachers, come up with appropriate plan of actions ensuring that Preventive Drug Education can effectively be implemented. Along this line, it is reminded that school authorities must supervise and give full support to the activities under the NDEP such as Curriculum and Instruction, Co-curricular and Ancillary Services, Staff Development; Parent Education and Community Outreach and Monitoring, Research and Evaluation.

3. All concerned are reminded to ensure that topics under Preventive Drug Education are emphasized in all classroom instructions. Thus, regular monitoring on the part of the concerned Division Personnel and School Heads are expected.

4. For information, guidance and strict compliance.

CRISTY C. EPE, CESE
Schools Division Superintendent

Ends: Regional Memorandum dated November 21, 2019
Reference: Regional Memorandum dated November 21, 2019
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:
CURRICULUM NDEP Program Implementation
Ibid. deped’s response to strengthen preventive drug education in schools
8 December, 2019

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MEMORANDUM

To: Schools Division Superintendents

Subject: DEPED’S RESPONSE TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Date: November 21, 2019

Herewith is DepEd Memorandum DM-PHRODFO 2019-00984 dated November 19, 2019 from Hon. Diosdado M. San Antonio, Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction relative to the DepEd’s Response to Strengthen Preventive Drug Education in Schools, DepEd Region XI is committed to strengthening Preventive Drug Education, which includes the following:

- Classifications of Drugs
- Prevention of Drug misuse and abuse
- Harmful side effects and long term consequences of drug use
- Signs and symptoms of drug abuse
- Referral of Cases to appropriate authorities for provision of intervention

All concerned are reminded to ensure that the topics are emphasized in all classroom instructions.

It is also reminded that school authorities must supervise and give full support to the activities under the NDEP such as Curriculum and Instruction; co-curricular and Ancillary Services; Staff Development; Parent Education and Community Outreach and Monitoring, Research and Evaluation.

Strict compliance of this Memorandum to all concerned is desired.

EVELYN R. FETALVERO, CESO IV
Assistant Regional Director
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Regional Director
MEMORANDUM
DM-PHRODFO-2019-00984

FOR : MINISTER OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, BARRMM REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : JESUS L.R. MATEO
Undersecretary

SUBJECT : DEPED’S RESPONSE TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

DATE : 19 NOVEMBER 2019

Reports on the use of “magic mushrooms” as a new source of drug or illegal drug substitute being used by high school learners have been brought to the attention of the Department of Education. This poses a concern as this type of mushroom can be easy to find in the countryside and can be accessible to anyone. This can be dangerous as it affects the health of those who ingest the hallucinogenic substance present in it.

Magic mushroom is the term given to mushrooms that contain psilocybin, a hallucinogenic substance included in the 1971 United Nations Single Convention on Psychotropic Substances, under Schedule 1 Drug—it has a high potential for misuse and has no currently accepted medical use in treatment—and enumerated in Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Like any hallucinogen, psilocybin found in magic mushrooms has the ability to distort one’s perception of reality. They are known to cause nausea, yawning, feeling relaxed or drowsy, introspective experience, nervousness, paranoia, panic, hallucinations, and psychosis

It is emphasized that DepEd, as a member-agency of the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS) and Interagency Committee on Illegal Drugs (ICAD), is committed to strengthening Preventive Drug Education, which includes the following topics:

- Classifications of Drugs
  - Stimulants (e.g. cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine)
  - Opioids (e.g. heroine, morphine, opium)
  - Depressants (e.g. alcohol, barbiturates, benzodiazepines)
  - Hallucinogens (e.g. LSD, mescaline peyote, ecstasy, magic mushrooms)
- Prevention of drug misuse and abuse
- Harmful side effects and long-term consequences of drug use
- Signs and symptoms of drug use
- Referral of cases to appropriate authorities for provision of intervention
All concerned are reminded to ensure that these topics are emphasized in all classroom instructions.

DepEd also reiterates the following Memoranda/Orders issued to ensure the effective implementation of the National Drug Education Program (NDEP), which aims to develop well-rounded learners equipped with resistance skills against risky behaviors that could lead to substance use and abuse:

1. DepEd Memorandum No. 200, s. 2016- Strengthening the National Drug Education Program in Schools
2. DepEd Order No. 30, s. 2018- Preventive Drug Education Program and Policy on Curriculum and Instruction
3. DepEd Memorandum No. 120, s. 2018- Implementation of Detailed Lesson Plan on Preventive Drug Education

The Department is reminding the school authorities to supervise and give full support to the activities under the NDEP such as (1) Curriculum and Instruction; (2) Co-curricular and Ancillary Services; (3) Staff Development; (4) Parent Education and Community Outreach; and (5) Monitoring, Research and Evaluation.

It is also expected that the school authorities closely coordinate with the Barangay Anti-Drug Council (BADC)/ Municipal Anti-Drug Council (MADC)/ Provincial Anti-Drug Council (PADC) and local health units for reported cases of drug use in their localities to ensure appropriate action.

Strict compliance with this Memorandum is desired.