



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**

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15 JUN 2017

DepEd MEMORANDUM  
No. **109**, s. 2017

**PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF DEPED'S DECLARATION OF SCHOOLS AS ZONES OF PEACE, AS A REITERATION OF DEPED ORDER NO. 44, S. 2005**

To: Regional Secretary, ARMM  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools Heads  
All Others Concerned

1. Due to the recent incidents of violence and armed conflict in Marawi City and the bombings and firefights near schools in Mankayan Town in Benguet, both of which resulted in the disruption of classes, the Department of Education (DepEd) deems it essential and timely to reiterate DepEd Order (DO) No. 44, s. 2005 entitled *Declaration of Schools as Zones of Peace*.

2. In the case of Marawi City, where as much as 20,000 learners are believed to be displaced, the Department has initiated interventions to accommodate these learners by extending enrolment until the end of June, and waiving the usual documentary requirements. DepEd believes that education must never stop, and instead should continue for these children to provide them hope, and bring back a sense of normalcy.

3. Worldwide, schools are universally treated as neutral zones despite being in the middle of intense armed conflict areas, and are *free* from the presence of armed combatants regardless of what side they are from. It is imperative that this point be stressed, and that the schools be accorded the same respect. Schools are places for learning, caring, and nurturing—a true second home for the learners.

4. Apart from reiterating the aforementioned DO, DepEd is also initiating a nationwide awareness campaign anchored on **Schools as Zones of Peace**.

5. In light of this, the following are instructed:

- a. All schools are instructed to post the official tarpaulin designs size *three by eight feet* (copy enclosed) declaring schools as Zones of Peace, at least two on both sides of the school front gate, and on all other sides of or around the school to make the message prominent and noticeable;
- b. Schools division and regional offices should assist in the reproduction of the aforementioned tarpaulins and ensure that all schools and offices have posted the said posters;

- c. The Department enjoins all personnel, stakeholders and the community as a whole to actively participate in and/or establish peace building initiatives to ensure the safety of the learners, personnel, and schools; and
  - d. Encourage partnership and parallel efforts with respective local government units, local media, and other stakeholders to take part in the campaign.
6. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



**LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES**  
Secretary

Encl.:  
As stated

Reference:  
DepEd Order (No. 44, s. 2005)

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

CAMPAIGN  
LEARNERS  
PARTNERSHIPS  
PEACE EDUCATION  
SAFETY EDUCATION  
SCHOOLS



**THIS SCHOOL IS A**

**PEACE ZONE**

**LET US PROTECT IT FROM CONFLICT**

THIS SCHOOL  
IS A **PEACE ZONE**  
LET US PROTECT IT FROM CONFLICT

