



Republika ng Pilipinas  
**Kagawaran ng Edukasyon**  
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

**AIDE MEMOIRE (Updated)**  
March 24, 2021

**RESPONSE TO THE PRIVILEGE SPEECH  
OF SAGIP PARTY-LIST RODANTE MARCOLETA  
ON DEPED'S VANS & COMPUTERIZATION PROGRAM  
AND THE STATEMENT OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN  
ON THE COMPUTERIZATION PROGRAM**

**I. BACKGROUND**

On March 15, 2021, SAGIP Party-list Representative Rodante D. Marcoleta delivered a privilege speech titled '*Quo Vadis DepEd?*' at the House of Representatives in which he raised several issues about the Department of Education (DepEd.)

Quo vadis is a Latin phrase meaning "*where are you going?*"

On March 23, 2021, Senator Win Gatchalian, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts, and Culture, urged the Department to ensure the fast and orderly implementation of the DepEd Computerization Program (DCP) and brought to attention similar issues as raised by Rep. Marcoleta.

This Aide Memoire answers the points and questions posed by the lawmakers that are under the scope of the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA.)

These are the subject matters on the DepEd service vans and the DCP.

**II. DEPED 4X4 PICKUPS AND PASSENGER VANS**

Rep. Marcoleta alleged that "*In the disposition of more than 200 passenger vans procured by DepEd, the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration issued two successive memoranda that made it mandatory for Regional Director, Schools Division Superintendent, Regional and Division Supply Officers and Drivers to attend a Ceremonial Turn Over of Passenger Vans. Both memoranda reminded all concerned recipients to be present in the said event because 'those who are absent or fail to claim the vans during the turn over will forfeit their service vehicle.'*"



Scan this QR Code to view  
Videos and Magazines  
of Major Programs



**Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)**

[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO)]

Department of Education, Central Office, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City  
Rm 519, Mabini Bldg; Mobile: +639260320762; Tel: (+632) 86337203, (+632) 86376207  
Email: usec.admin@deped.gov.ph; Facebook/Twitter @depedtayo

These statements are absolutely FALSE.

OUA is presenting the following facts:

The OUA Memorandum on the turnover ceremony issued on 21 September 2020 fully considered the high possibility of the COVID-19 spreading in any gathering during the pandemic.

Thus, it protected and upheld each person's right to health and well-being. This was by announcing that the activity would be shown simultaneously on the internet via various online platforms so that participants could watch it from the safety of their homes.

The memorandum titled '*National Turnover Ceremony of Alloted Laptops, Drones and Vehicles*' was sent to all DepEd Regional Directors and Schools Division Superintendents of the National Capital Region (NCR), Calabarzon and Mimaropa. It emphasized that "*The event in the Central Office shall be held simultaneously via Teams/Zoom to be attended by the Honorable Secretary and the members of the Execom.*"

In requesting for the physical presence of the receiver of the passenger van, the word '*expected*' was used. There was a presumption that very limited number of persons from the Regional and Division Offices would be on hand to pick up the vehicles so that the Central Office (CO) could perform the 'physical turnover' of the units.

The memorandum was, at the very least, advising that the person who would show up should be an "*authorized personnel*," specifically the "*Supply Officer*," to take custody of the units.

It was just impossible for the vehicles to roll out of the CO compound and head to the field offices without human drivers. Thus, there was a need for them to physically report to the CO.

Contrary to the claim of Rep. Marcoleta, the ceremony was not in any way accompanied by threats of forfeiture.

### **III. DEPED COMPUTERIZATION PROGRAM (DCP)**

In his speech, Rep. Marcoleta quoted heavily from COA Audit Reports of 2017 and 2018, about the DCPs from 2015 to 2018.

The observations of the Rep. Marcoleta, which are based on Audit Observations that were made three and four years ago, are duly noted. Many of these situations that were noticed in the past have already been resolved.

Similarly, Sen. Gatchalian also pointed out facts based on a COA report stating details of the DCP from 2015-2019.



As of this year, a total of 740,352 laptops, thin clients, computers and tablet PCs have already been completely delivered. This covers the funds for all of FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2018.

Another set of 211,344 devices from the FY 2019 fund and 39,134 from the FY 2020 fund are undergoing deliveries.

The schedule was delayed because of the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recent deliveries have increased the percentage of schools with ICT equipment to 91%.**

**Once the FY 2019 and FY 2020 projects are delivered, the percentage of schools with ICT equipment will further rise to 98.7%.**

Booking up of the inventories has been made a requirement for payment of the suppliers.

Non-readiness of schools to receive ICT equipment has been addressed by the new packages, which are composed of tablet PCs and laptops contained in storage carts.

These new packages can be moved from room to room and do not need a dedicated computer laboratory.

Defective ICT packages are being reported to the suppliers on a monthly basis. Suppliers are required to resolve all pending issues and complaints before the retention money of the project is released to them.

Aside from these, DepEd has received donated gadgets from the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the Department of Finance (DOF), and the People's Republic of China (PROC.)

On January 29, 2021, Secretary Briones received on behalf of the Department, 5,038 devices composed of mobile phones which were part of the apprehended items from the Port of Clark.

On March 16, 2021, the undersigned represented the Department in a turnover of another batch of donated ICT equipment from the BOC which included 665 USD flash drives, 225 cellphones, 74 LED computer monitors, 50 printers, including bags, shoes, and books.

On March 19, 2021, 1,632 smartphones, 250 tablets, and 28 laptops were turned over in Negros Oriental which were donated to the Department by the PROC, DOF, and the BOC.



The use of ICT equipment is being backed by massive training programs being conducted by the Department on Educational Technology (EdTech). The most recent and historic first was the conduct of a week-long Virtual Inservice Training (INSET)

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The OUA hopes it has extensively and satisfactorily responded to the issues and concerns raised by Rep. Marcoleta and Sen. Gatchalian.

The undersigned welcomes the chance to communicate matters pertaining to the Department's computerization program, the transportation for DepEd officials and personnel, as well as its other important programs and projects.

In his speech, Rep. Marcoleta asked "*Quo vadis DepEd? (Where are you going, DepEd)?*"

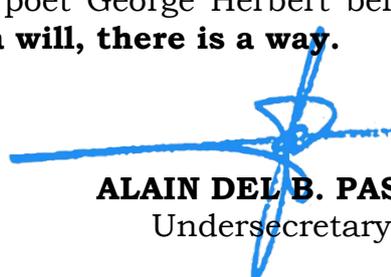
At this time, one may profoundly say, the Department is at a point when it is travelling into an unchartered territory, given the great uncertainties that the coronavirus brought upon the lives of people around the world, including educators, parents, and learners.

But through this voyage of discovery, DepEd is guided by a clear mission – the creed of Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones – that "*education must continue at all cost,*" even during a world war as she had experienced, or a pandemic.

That is the forward direction where the Department is taking, carrying on with the conviction that no learner shall be left behind.

The exploration is filled with obstacles and trials, just like all meaningful journeys.

However, as 17<sup>th</sup> Century English poet George Herbert believed, "***Ubi enim voluntas est viam***" – **Where there is a will, there is a way.**

  
**ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA**  
Undersecretary



OUAD00-0321-0 227  
To authenticate this document,  
please scan the QR Code

