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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

AIDE MEMOIRE
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**THE UNWAVERING WAY FORWARD:
DEPED'S LEARNING CONTINUITY PLANS IN THE NEW NORMAL**

The Department of Education, as part of the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease, has continuously worked hard to respond to the changing scenarios brought about by the global pandemic in the field of basic education.

Given the scheduled opening of the school year this August 24, 2020, DepEd has presented to the Senate its Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) in line with the implementation of Republic Act No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

It is now presenting its answers to some questions or comments.

Comments of the Senate on the Implementation of RA No. 11469

Hereunder are the comments from members of the Senate, including the representatives of the Senate in the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee in line with the implementation of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

11TH WEEKLY REPORT - SENATE'S CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- What is the target date of completion of the installation of free wifi internet access in public educational institutions considering that classes in public schools will begin soon? How much will the government spend on this program and how many internet routers are they going to install?
- Given the shift to blended learning, we wish to reiterate our call for financial and other forms of support to all institutions of learning to ensure that their faculty, students, and other staff have the appropriate ICT equipment program, and required software to be able to continue learning in the new normal.



Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

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

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12TH WEEKLY REPORT - SENATE'S CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- According to the survey conducted by DepEd on 700,000 teachers, 87% have computers at home while 13% have none. Among those with gadgets, 41% have internet connection, 49% have an internet signal in their area but no connection of their own, and 10% lack both. How is the DepEd addressing these gaps?
- The DepEd should also present a clear plan on the use of radio and television as part of its strategy to deliver education under the New Normal. We recognize that radio and television can be a cost-effective and cheap medium of primary and secondary education especially for public school students who cannot buy laptops and/or tablets.
- Given the shift to blended learning, we wish to reiterate our call for financial and other forms of support to all institutions of learning to ensure that their faculty, students, and other staff have appropriate ICT equipment, program, and required software to be able to continue learning in the new normal.

DepEd Commons, Partnerships, and Connectivity

The **DepEd Commons** is an online platform to support the continuous delivery of basic education to Filipino learners under the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA) and the Information and Communications Technology Service's (ICTS) **Public Schools of the Future's Digital Rise Program**. Its primary objective is to make teaching and learning accessible anytime and anywhere, in whatever situation or environment, and as guided by the aspirations of the Department's *Sulong Edukalidad* program.

Soon after its launch in March 2020, it has reached almost 8 million unique users. The DepEd Commons was also made accessible for free to users even if they have no internet data credits or cellphone load through the partnerships DepEd established with Globe Telecom and PLDT-Smart Communications. These telecommunication companies have whitelisted the DepEd Commons so that it is free for anyone accessing the site through mobile data. This will allow the 96% of teachers who have personal smartphones/tablets to access the DepEd Commons without incurring any data charges.

In line with the shift from traditional face-to-face instruction to blended learning methodologies, DepEd is coordinating with various local government units (LGUs) and private organizations to assist in providing devices for teachers and learners. The OUA has already released Memorandum No. 00-0620-0030 indicating the recommended specifications to serve as guide to those who wish to make donations of the necessary equipment. Also, DepEd has already acquired software licenses and can preload e-books and other learning materials in the gadgets and equipment to ensure that teachers and learners can continue to learn even if there is no internet connectivity.



DepEd has also issued OUA Memorandum No. 00-0420-0029 allowing teachers to bring home DepEd-bought devices for use in distance learning. There are currently 99,548 laptops, 124,939 desktop PCs, and 308,150 tablet PCs that the 13% of teachers who have no computers at home can borrow. If the government will give all public school teachers one laptop each, this will amount to P27 billion.

For 2020, DepEd is set to procure internet connection for 7,000 Last Mile Schools where mobile phone signals from telecommunication companies are weak or absent. When completed, this will increase the total number of connected schools from 48% to 63%. The target completion of the project which costs P700 million will take 10 months.

DepEd TV and Radio

The use of television and radio as part of the Department's strategy to ensure the continuity of the delivery of education in the New Normal has been discussed as a cost-effective and cheap medium of primary and secondary education, especially for public school students who cannot buy laptops and/or tablets.

DepEd has already established radio and TV-based instruction as a distance learning delivery modality in specific areas, particularly among geographically disadvantaged and conflict-affected areas (GIDCA). The COVID-19 global outbreak challenged the Department to upscale these forms of distance learning to the national level. These distance learning options will respond to the needs of a broad range of learners, from those in the urban areas to those in locations where online learning is not feasible.

According to the Survey on Philippine Access Media conducted by Kantar Media Habits in 2019, 88% of Filipino households own a TV. The use of TV for educational purposes is also being supported by Republic Act No. 8370 or the Children's Television Act of 1997 which requires each broadcasting network a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the daily total air time for child-friendly shows as part of the network's responsibility of serving the public. Radio programs on the other hand are accessible to communities in the hinterlands not reached by TV.

These modalities are being prepared for the long term since moving into multiple learning delivery modalities was in the pipeline of DepEd's plans even before the COVID outbreak.

Through the use of radio and TV, the following shall be achieved:

- Balance the distribution of quality education among areas in both urban and geographically isolated and disconnected communities;
- Provide quality teaching-learning delivery by using television and/or radio as a means to support and complement other learning delivery modalities, and



- Integrate core values and other government initiatives that support and protect children’s interests in pursuit of liberating education.

Education through radio and TV shall also contribute to achieving increased learning outcomes in the key learning areas, and in the development of adaptable, flexible, competent, competitive, productive, and responsible citizens ready for the 21st century.

Description of the Teaching-Learning Process in TV and Radio-based Instruction

1. Radio and TV-based instruction shall be implemented nationally.
2. In this distance learning option, learners shall listen to educational audio (radio) and/or video (TV) lessons that will cover the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs) identified by DepEd for all grade levels.
3. Lessons utilized for these platforms are converted self-learning modules (SLMs) where the sequence of presentation is similar with what other learners use in online and modular distance learning. Video lessons and scripts will be uploaded in the DepEd Commons platform.
4. Audio and/or video lessons shall be supplemented with Learning Activity Sheets that serve as assessment tools to determine how far the learners learned the concept in the video or radio-based lessons.
5. Given the allowable screen time for the various ages of learners, each grade level and subject will have specific screening hours within the week. Other hours per day will be utilized using other distance learning options depending on what is feasible in each area – online, offline, and/or modular.
6. Schools must ensure that teachers prepare a Weekly Learning Plan which includes the weekly home learning tasks and Individual Monitoring Plan of learners.
7. Schools must provide the learners as well as their parents/guardians/learning facilitators the broadcast schedule of lessons. Learners shall be directed to watch an educational TV program facilitated by DepEd. The duration of every lesson episode shall depend on the complexity and length of the modules based on the targeted learning competencies and the allowable airtime agreed upon by DepEd and the TV station.
8. TV programs shall be delivered using a more interactive approach allowing learners to participate by answering questions, completing tasks, or by simply imitating or following procedures and processes being demonstrated by the host teacher. For learner participation to



take place, the host teacher shall have pre-determined brief pauses in the lesson presentation while he/she gives instructions or guides the viewing learners. Learners shall be provided with worksheets/activity sheets in advance to work on during a specific TV program.

9. Enhancement of understanding of key concepts and clarifications on possible areas of confusion in the lesson that was viewed/listened to shall be done during home visits by subject area teacher/learning facilitator where possible, or through phone calls, short message service (SMS), among others. Materials for learning exercises, enrichment activities, and assessment may be accessed through the printed materials or available resources in DepEd Commons.
10. Guidance from parents/para-teachers/learning facilitators during viewing/listening time may also be required.

Description of the Implementation Process

In the short term (pandemic period):

1. DepEd is prioritizing potential partnerships with government networks to serve as the main channels for radio and TV - the Philippine Broadcasting Service (PBS) for radio and IBC13 for TV.
2. The PBS has five (5) stations in Metro Manila and 32 stations located mostly in areas with no commercial stations. If plans push through, audio lessons shall be on air from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday, with special sessions for teachers and parents after 6 p.m.
3. The same implementation shall be done with TV.
4. DepEd is also exploring partnerships with local radio and TV stations who will be willing to give time to air audio/video lessons.
5. Production of video and audio lessons shall be done by DepEd through its field offices and selected schools. These shall undergo quality assurance through DepEd's standards since the Department has existing standards for radio and TV-based instruction.

In the long term (during recovery and onwards):

1. DepEd shall continue what has been set up during the pandemic period and shall continue its services as appropriate after the pandemic.
2. DepEd shall explore the purchase of bandwidth for DepEd through the government's TV networks with corporate sponsors covering the cost.

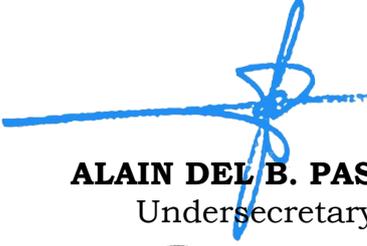


Conclusion

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging situations it has created for learners, teachers, and parents, the Department continues to search for ways to respond proactively and efficiently. The Digital Rise Program has stepped up to the challenge and has worked to provide devices, connectivity, and instructional support for learners and teachers to empower them during these trying times.

DepEd is also aware of the realities of the disconnected schools and learners and is preparing the way for increased connectivity and the use of alternative modes of distance learning options through more accessible means such as TV and radio. Physical modules and other learning materials will continue to play a role for those who only have these as their option. Dedicated teachers have continued to serve and go beyond the call of duty to ensure that they are up to date and capacitated in order to continue to teach their students.

In true Filipino *bayanihan* spirit, it will take more than the Department but the whole community of stakeholders to ensure the continuity of education of our youth.



ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary



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