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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

DepEd Task Force COVID-19
MEMORANDUM No. 96
19 August 2020

For: **Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones**
Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors and Head of Offices
DepEd Central Office Personnel

Subject: **INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN REVITALIZING THE**
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH OF DEPED THROUGH PRAYER
AND RITUAL

“PAGTAHAN AT PAGTALIMA: A MOMENT FOR SILENCE AND
PRAYER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AMIDST
COVID-19 PANDEMIC” TONIGHT AT 8:00 PM

For the past five months since the nationally declared lockdown in March 2020, the Department of Education has courageously engaged the various challenges and difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions. Amid all that has been done and accomplished, we have been experiencing anxiety, worry, fear and stress, more so with the recent COVID-19 cases amongst our colleagues.

As the Department gears for the opening of classes on October 5, 2020, it recognizes that navigating through these uncharted, uncertain and volatile times requires a spiritually-anchored tenacity and courage, a disposition exemplified by our country's generations of heroes, and demonstrated by many during this pandemic, including our DepEd personnel, as they faced their respective “line of fire.” These acts of kaBAYANIhan, while addressing the pressing and urgent situations of the present, are acts of hope and faith not only for those alive today but also for those still to come. Every fallen person in the “line of fire” is a name, a person and a story interwoven with the known and not-as-known stories of courage, faith and hope that collectively make the tapestry of what we today call our Filipino nation.

In this historic moment in our lives, we are called to sit, be silent and to offer the burdens to the Greater Being, whatever name given. With the temporary closure



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)]

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of DepEd Central Office within the week, as announced through DepEd COVID-19 Task Force Memo No. 93 series of 2020, we are called to come together in solidarity and prayer as one DepEd family, that our personal and institutional clarity of intention, strength of action and courageous disposition be revitalized after months of engaging the waves of uncertainties, difficulties and tensions.

The DepEd Central Office personnel are encouraged to join the **“Pagtahan At Pagtalima: A Moment for Silence and Prayer of the Department of Education Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic”**, an online activity which will be conducted on August 19, 2020, 8:00 PM. This online activity includes candle lighting, listening to music and offering of prayers and intentions for our country, for our Department and for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

DepEd Central Office personnel are advised to join the Facebook group in this link: <https://bit.ly/PagtahanatPagtalima>. This is where the said activity will be streamed live. A candle is also requested to be prepared for the candle lighting session.

This moment of silence and prayer will be followed by a ritual-vigil which shall be through the night of August 19 until dawn of August 20 in the Central Office. These shall be undertaken again on September 17, 2020 also in the evening, this time in preparation for the opening of School Year (SY) 2020-2021.

These evenings shall be a moment of connecting spiritually with the generations of heroes who have exemplified kaBAYANIhan, and also with the generations still to be born who exemplify the hope of the “nation to come”. It shall be a moment to invoke their wisdom and courage, as we navigate through the months ahead. Enveloping the whole process will be prayers to the Creator of all, invoking care, protection, blessing, the spirit of committed community and the wellbeing of the DepEd family as we embrace the coming school year.

The whole process of prayer and ritual shall culminate during the flag raising on September 21, 2020 (Monday), and that day shall commence a more nuanced two-week build up into SY 2020-2021, flowing from the collective strength revitalized through the weeks before. In doing so, this historical school year shall be anchored on our core values: *Maka-Diyos, Makakalikasan, Makabansa, and Makatao*.

For more information, please contact the **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service**, 2nd Floor, Mabini Building, Department of Education Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City through email at drmo@deped.gov.ph.

For immediate and appropriate action.



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ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA

Undersecretary
Chairperson, DepEd Task Force COVID-19

INDICATIVE PROGRAM OF THE “PAGTAHAN AND PAGTALIMA: A MOMENT FOR SILENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:00 PM - 9:00PM	Candle Lighting Session*
	Songs of Reflections
	Offering of Prayers and Intentions
	Songs of Reflections
	Closing Message

**Everyone is encouraged to prepare a candle to be lighted*



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