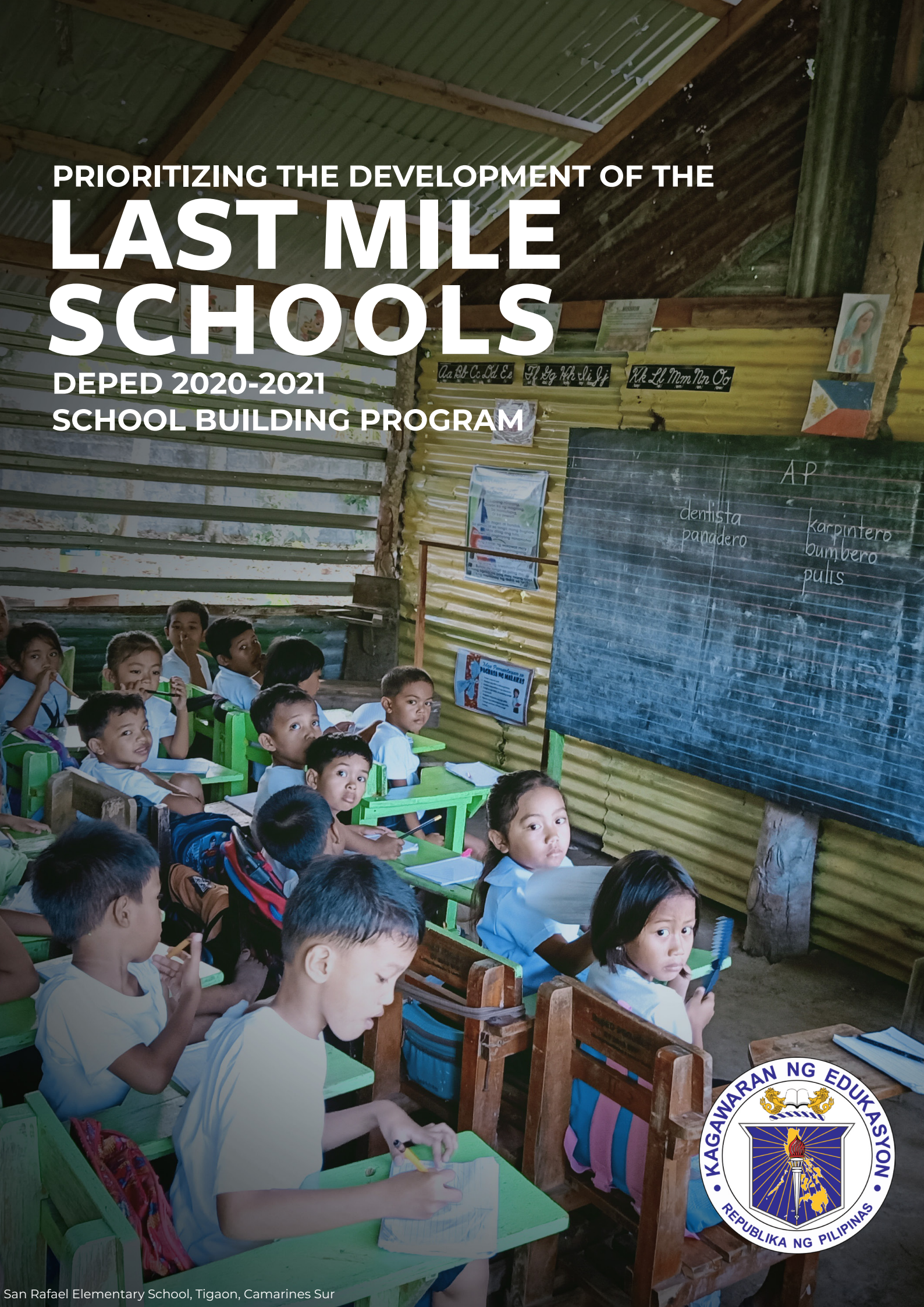


PRIORITIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAST MILE SCHOOLS

DEPED 2020-2021
SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM





Gen. Gregorio Del Pilar National High School, Bulakan, Bulacan



**ANG MGA PAARALAN NA NAIIWANAN
- ANG MGA LAST MILE SCHOOLS -
AY AMING AAYUSIN AT IHAHABOL SA TAONG 2020 AT 2021**

Karamihan sa ating mga kababayang Pilipino, lalo na iyong mga taong aktibo sa social media, maging ang ilang grupo ng mga guro mismo, ang kanilang saloobin sa imahe ng Department of Education (DepEd) ay naimpluwensiyahan ng sarili nilang karanasan noong kanilang kabataan, noong sila ay mga estudyante pa. Pananaw na sa kabila ng pagdaan ng mahabang panahon, naroon pa rin ang makalumang paniniwala na ang sitwasyon sa DepEd ay hindi nagbabago at hindi nagagawan ng solusyon ng ating gobyerno - kulang sa silid-aralan, sira-sirang gusali sa mga paaralan, kapos na mga upuan at mesa, o sira-sirang mga kagamitan para sa mga guro at estudyante.

Itong “Last Mile Program” ang **mabilis at seryosong tugon ng kasalukuyang pamunuan ng DepEd sa mga paaralan sa buong Pilipinas na may kakulangan sa mga gusali o silid-aralan at kagamitan, o may sirang mga gusali, silid-aralan at kagamitan.** Ito ang mga paaralan na matatagpuan sa mga malalayong bundok at mga liblib na isla, walang sementadong kalsada, may pinsala ang ilang gusali, bumabagsak na ang mga bubong, at walang sapat na upuan ang mga bata.

Naumpisahan ang “Last Mile Program” bilang isang may malasakit na aksyon at solusyon sa isang nag-aalang ulat mula sa isang ordinaryong mamamayan sa Region VII na nagparating sa ating Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Michael Dino na mayroong eskwelahan sa kanilang lugar na hindi kaaya-aya ang kalagayan. Nang makarating sa DepEd ang ulat na ito, pinadala namin kaagad ang ilang opisyaes ng kagawaran na pinangunahan ng aming Undersecretary for Administration Alain Pascua, at batay sa kanilang rekomendasyon pagkatapos inspeksyonin ang hindi magandang sitwasyon ng paaralan, mga gusali nito, silid-aralan at kagamitan, agad na gumawa ng mabilis na aksyon ang DepEd para ayusin ang mga natuklasang suliranin.

Dahil sa mga nabanggit na pangyayari sa “Last Mile Program” at “School Building Program” ng DepEd, pinagtibay nito ang obserbasyon na may mga lugar sa ilang parte ng bansa na hindi naaabot ng social media at internet, hindi rin naaabot ng modernong komunikasyon ng landline phone or mobile phone, at hindi napapansin dahil walang naglalakas-loob na kahit isang ordinaryong mamamayan or kahit isang guro mismo o estudyante ng naturang lokasyon na magparating ng ulat sa kinauukulan dahil sa makalumang saloobin na hindi ito matutugunan ng DepEd o ng pamahalaan.

Kaya nag-imbentaryo ang DepEd ng mga eskwelahan sa lahat ng mga lalawigan sa buong Pilipinas na may parehong hindi kaaya-ayang kalagayan ng mga paaralan na matatagpuan sa mga malalayong tuktok ng bundok o mga liblib na isla. Kamakailan lang ay ginamit ng DepEd ang FB Workplace upang maging paraan ng mga guro at opisyaes ng DepEd na mag-ulat ng mga Last Mile Schools at mga priorities para sa School Building Program. Ang mga ganitong ehemplo ng pakikipagtulungan ng sinumang mamamayan at mga nagmamalasakit na guro at opisyaes sa mga malalayo’t liblib na lugar sa buong bansa ang hinahanap ng DepEd.

Kaya umpisa ng budget ng DepEd sa 2020, ilalaan ang malaking bahagi ng Basic Education Facilities Fund (BEFF) sa “Last Mile School Program,” para ang mga paaralan sa malalayong lugar at liblib na pook ay maging singtulad ng mga paaralan sa mga bayan at syudad sa ganda at ayos ng mga gusali, silid-aralan, at mga kagamitan.

Sa maikling panunungkulan ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte, kitang-kita ang dami ng mga bagong gusaling pampaaralan sa mga siyudad at sa mga lalawigan. Hindi lang sa National Capital Region kundi saan man Region ng mga lalawigan ka pumunta, maging sa mga malalayong bundok at mga liblib na isla, mayroong school buildings na naitatayo na iisa ang disenyo, may tibay ng konstruksyon laban sa malalakas na hanging dulot ng mga bagyo, may malilinis at kaaya-ayang mga silid-aralan at kagamitan.

Inaanyayahan namin ang bawat Pilipino na bisitahin ang alinmang opisina ng DepEd sa lahat ng mga siyudad at mga lalawigan. Pagmasdan ang mga litrato at panoorin ang mga video ng “Last Mile Program” at “School Building Program” ng DepEd, at ikaw na rin ang magsasabi sa sarili mo, “Oo nga, iba noon at iba na ngayon!” at “Hindi na totoo ngayon ang lumang sabi-sabi na walang school buildings ang DepEd!”

Harinawa sa kalahatan ay magbago ang ating mga pananaw, magliwanag ang ating mga pag-iisip sa mga tuloy-tuloy na programa at proyekto ng DepEd para tugunan ang mga pangagailangan ng sektor ng edukasyon **tungo sa “Maka-Diyos, Maka-Tao, Maka-Bansa at Maka-Kalikasan” na pagsisilbi at pagtataguyod ng mga kapakanan at interes ng mga guro, kawani, at estudyante sa buong Pilipinas.**

Hintayin niyo lang kami sa DepEd. Hindi kailangan mag-rally at mag-wave ng placard. Hindi kailangan mag-mura. Hindi kailangan mag-post ng kung anu-ano sa social media. Sabihin lang niyo sa amin, sulatan niyo kami or tawagan ang telepono sa aming opisina. Pag nag-ulat kayo ng kailangan niyong ayuda sa DepEd, maasahan niyo, **kami ay darating at kami ay siguradong may karampatang mabilis at responsableng aksyon.** Makikita natin ito sa ating “Last Mile Program” at “School Building Program,” **ang mga aayusing gusali at paaralan na naiiwanan ay aming ihahabol sa taong 2020 at sa 2021.**

Maraming Salamat Po sa Inyong Pang-Unawa at Suporta sa DepEd!
Mabuhay ang Mga Guro’t Kawani, pati mga Estudyante’t Magulang!
Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Pilipino!


Leonor Magtolis Briones
Kalihim, Kagawaran ng Edukasyon

**Sipi sa isang video interview ng Kalihim ng Edukasyon hinggil sa Last Mile Schools at School Building Program.*

Access to quality basic education is a constitutional right of every Filipino, no matter their background, distance, or personal circumstance.

To reach out to and close the gap between Geographically Isolated, Disadvantaged and Conflict-Affected (GIDCA) areas to their counterparts in urban centers, the Department of Education (DepEd) has developed the Last Mile Schools Program to provide these areas with **unhampered and equal access to quality basic education.**

The Last Mile Schools Program is part of the Public Schools of the Future framework, under the leadership of Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones, and in line with the Philippine Development Plan 2017 to 2022 under the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

From 2010 to 2016, DepEd has built 74,178 classrooms, repaired and reconstructed 49,784 classrooms, restored 53 Gabaldon Heritage School Buildings, delivered 6,239,147 armchairs, installed 388,570 ICT equipment, distributed 230,716,263 textbooks and manuals, provided 93,829 packages of math and science tools and equipment, employed 229,316 teachers, and fed 1,801,306 students.

From July 2016-March 2019, under President Duterte and Secretary Briones' administration, DepEd has built 67,667 classrooms, repaired and reconstructed 66,654 classrooms, restored 284 Gabaldon Heritage School Buildings, delivered 4,447,150 armchairs, installed 486,635 ICT equipment, distributed 158,850,171 textbooks and manuals, provided 20,421 packages of math and science equipment, employed 177,218 teachers, and fed 4,526,432 students.

In addition, the current administration also initiated new undertakings. It constructed 4,136 TechVoc Laboratories and Workshops, delivered 1,396,614 new tables and chairs, provided 1,338 packages of TechVoc laboratory tools and equipment, and upgraded electrical systems in 2,191 schools.



Mog-ab Elementary School, Mountain Province

CURRENT DATA FOR 2010-2019:

Education Inputs and Support Service	2010 - 2016	July 2016 - March 2019
New Classrooms	74,178	67,667
Repaired and Reconstructed Classrooms	49,784	66,654
Gabaldon Heritage School Restoration	53	284
School Furniture - Armchairs	6,239,147	4,447,150
ICT Equipment*	388,570	486,635
Textbooks and Manuals	230,716,263	158,850,171
Math and Science Tools and Equipment	93,829	20,421
New Teachers	229,316	177,218
Learners Fed in Schools	1,801,306	4,526,432

* ICT Equipment include computers, printers, routers, projectors and televisions, among others.

NEW UNDERTAKINGS:

Education Inputs and Support Service	2010 - 2016	July 2016 - March 2019
TechVoc Laboratories and Workshops		4,136
School Furniture - New Tables and Chairs		1,396,614
TechVoc Laboratory Tools and Equipment		1,338
Electrical Systems Upgrade		2,191

Since the beginning of the administration of President Rodrigo Road Duterte, the DepEd under Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones has undertaken considerable measures by aggressively addressing and responding to the challenges of the times by establishing a shared vision of quality, accessible, relevant, liberating, and inclusive basic education for all. From 2016 to 2019, as shown in the table above, DepEd is sustaining the substantial gains in access to education by providing adequate education facilities, teaching and nonteaching personnel, and learning resources.

Programs, projects, and activities so far introduced benefitted the more fortunate and easily reachable and sustainable segments of learners, teachers, and other education stakeholders. Though fundamental reforms were instituted, and main issues and concerns addressed, DepEd recognizes the need to prioritize the development of the Last Mile Schools – those situated at GIDCA areas.

DepEd Memorandum No. 59, s. 2019 entitled “Prioritizing the Development of the Last Mile Schools in 2020-2021: Reaching Out and Closing the Gap” was released in May 2019 to formalize the efforts and make official the actions taken in line with the Last Mile Schools Program. It itemizes the indicators to be used in identifying a school as among the Last Mile Schools as well as the specific programs, projects, and activities that address the needs of the Last Mile Schools. It specifies the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA), in cooperation with the Planning Service, to consolidate the plans into one comprehensive program of implementation.

In support of this, the OUA released a Memorandum setting August 15, 2019 as the deadline for submission of schools for consideration under the 2020 listing in the Last Mile Schools Program.

WHAT ARE THE LAST MILE SCHOOLS?

By recognizing that programs, projects, and activities have mostly reached the more accessible segments of learners, teachers, and other education stakeholders for the last three years, DepEd is aware to immediately address the gaps in resources and facilities in schools that have not met the allocation criteria for various education inputs. It recognizes the urgency to reach out to and close the gap between marginalized schools in the rural areas and their counterparts in the urban centers. **Around 15.2% or 7,144 schools have so far been identified** that fall within these parameters. These are the Last Mile Schools.



Upper Tugar Primary School, Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte

- Last Mile Schools are schools that have **multi-grade classes, with less than five teachers, and a student population of less than 100 learners, more than 75% of which are usually indigenous people.**

- They are schools that **do not have complete sets of school furniture, no computers, no internet connection, very few textbooks and manuals, and lacking laboratory tools and equipment.**

- These are schools where school building projects did not push through because of problems in peace and order, and where private contractors, suppliers, and service providers find difficult to access in order to deliver the necessary equipment and services.



Anuling Elementary School, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan

- Last Mile Schools are schools that have **less than four classrooms, usually makeshift and non-standard** ones, where floors remain unpaved and walls are made of sawali and similar materials.

- They are schools with **no electricity**, and have **never had facilities repaired or any construction done in the last four years.**

- They are schools usually **located more than an hour away from the town center** and **only accessible through difficult terrain** and are located in far-flung mountains and isolated islands.

**PRIORITIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAST MILE SCHOOLS IN 2020-2021:
REACHING OUT AND CLOSING THE GAP**

- To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned
- The Department of Education (DepEd) is sustaining the substantial gains in access to education through the provision of adequate education facilities, teaching and nonteaching personnel, and learning resources. However, gaps in resources and facilities still remain in schools that have not met the allocation criteria for various education inputs, particularly in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA). To address this, DepEd is strengthening its efforts to reach out to these **Last Mile Schools**.
 - Among the indicators used in identifying a school as among the Last Mile Schools are as follows:
 - Having less than four classrooms;
 - With makeshift or nonstandard rooms;
 - Absence of electricity;
 - Have not been allocated funds for repairs or new construction projects in the last four years;
 - With travel distance of more than one hour from town center, or with difficulty of terrain;
 - Having multigrade classes/rooms;
 - With less than five teachers;
 - Having a student population of less than 100 learners; and
 - With more than 75% Indigenous People (IP) learners.
 - The Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Planning Service (PS), and the Administrative Service-Education Facilities Division (AS-EFD) are directed to identify the schools that will fall under the final list of Last Mile Schools using all available data, such as from the Enhanced Basic Education Information System (EBEIS), reports from the field, the ongoing Nationwide Baseline Survey, and other applicable data and information. The list will also be validated by EPD Engineers and Architects, and Disaster Risk and Reduction (DRRM) coordinators. The validated list will then be presented to the Executive Committee (ExeCom) for approval.
 - DepEd, through its bureaus, services, schools divisions, and offices, shall jointly plan and implement programs, projects, and activities that address the needs of the Last Mile Schools, such as:
 - Building of classrooms to address the minimum of four instructional rooms as standard for every school;

- Replacement of makeshift and nonstandard classrooms into standard ones;
 - Construction of a two-story Administration and Climate Change Emergency Storage and Shelter (ACCESS) building for every school to provide rooms for Library, Faculty Room, Principal's Office, Clinic and Guidance Room, and/or Computer/Technology-Vocational Livelihood (TVL)/Science Laboratory, and as Emergency Storage for school equipment, tools, supplies and materials in case of calamities;
 - Provision of needed standard school furniture;
 - Installation of solar panels to energize the unenergized schools;
 - Processing of land ownership papers and documents;
 - Delivery and installation of DepEd Computerization Program (DCP) packages;
 - Connection of the school to the DepEd Network and Internet;
 - Deployment of learning and administrative systems;
 - Feeding of all learners under the School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP);
 - Provision of *Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd* (OK sa DepEd) services;
 - Provision of potable water through deep wells, rump pumps, filtration equipment, among other facilities;
 - Provision of funds for *Gulayan sa Paaralan* (GPP) program;
 - Provision of funds for School Inside a Garden (SIGA) program;
 - Training of student-leaders and teacher-advisers;
 - Provision of teaching and learning materials;
 - Provision of TVL, Science and Mathematics equipment;
 - Provision of additional teachers and training of existing teachers;
 - Provision of nonteaching personnel for administrative and financial transactions;
 - Provision of the necessary, appropriate, and timely capacity-building for the personnel in the discharge of tasks and functions related to records management, asset management, cash management, and general services;
 - Determination and recommendation of the appropriate budgetary requirements to support the operations of the schools;
 - Engagement of external partners for goods/services that DepEd cannot provide, such as construction/rehabilitation/painting of fence, school gate, stage, multipurpose hall, among others;
 - Study the applicability of alternative procurement processes and alternative building materials to conform with the terrain and remoteness of the Last Mile Schools; and
 - Work for partnerships with the different agencies of government, including Local Government Units (LGUs).
- DepEd, in all governance levels, shall exert efforts to facilitate convergence initiatives with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and other government agencies, including LGUs, to address the broader needs in the areas that could not be addressed by DepEd, including access roads, health concerns of the community, expansion of coverage of School-Based Feeding Program beyond wasted and severely wasted learners, among others.
 - The Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, in cooperation with the Planning Service, shall consolidate the plans under one comprehensive program of implementation.
 - Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary



Camangahan Elementary School Guimbal, Iloilo

For 2020 and 2021, DepEd will direct a significant number of projects, programs, and activities to address the needs of these disadvantaged public schools and learners. The different bureaus, services, schools divisions, and offices shall work together to plan and implement the programs, projects, and activities that address the needs of the Last Mile Schools.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE FOR THE LAST MILE SCHOOLS?



Jesus Ramos National High School, Zamboanga Del Norte



Tubao Central School, Tubao, La Union



Photo from Sunstar

- Through the Last Mile Schools Program, the **needed number of teachers will be deployed and training will be provided for existing ones** for better delivery of the K to 12 Curriculum. Principals, school heads, and personnel will also be trained for the smooth operation of the school, as well as student-leaders and teacher advisers.

- **Non-teaching personnel will also be provided for administrative and financial transactions** together with the necessary, appropriate, and timely capacity-building for personnel in the discharge of tasks and functions related to records management, asset management, cash management, and general services. This will result in the efficient determination and recommendation of the appropriate budgetary requirements to support the operations of their respective schools.

- **Potable water** will be provided via deep wells, ram pumps, filtration equipment, and other sources, together with wash facilities and restrooms.

- With the development of the Last Mile Schools, programs such as the Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd (OK sa DepEd), School-Based Feeding Program, Gulayan sa Paaralan, School Inside a Garden, After School Sports, Core Values Formation, Student Leadership Development and others are provisioned with funds and properly implemented

- The Last Mile Schools Program will **transform makeshift classrooms into standard ones, ensuring a minimum of four newly constructed classrooms per school.** These classrooms will be provided with **standard school furniture, math and science equipment, laboratory tools and materials, textbooks, manuals, and other teaching and learning materials.**



A.V. Hernandez Elementary School, Tondo, Manila

- The Program will bring in **electricity through the installation of solar panels** in those areas where electrification has not yet been provided. **Computers and other information and communications technology** equipment will also be delivered to **enable schools to be connected to the DepEd network and to the world wide web.**

- The Program will also **process school site ownership** to enable unhampered school building constructions, which will include the **establishment of a 2 storey resilient Administration and Climate Change Emergency Storage and Shelter (ACCESS) building for multi-purpose use.** The ACCESS building will include a Library, Faculty Room, Principal's Office, Clinic and Guidance Room, and/or **Computer/Technology Vocational Livelihood (TVL)/Science Laboratory, and will serve as Emergency Storage** for school equipment, tools, supplies, and materials in times of calamities



Canizares National High School of Arts and Trade Cotabato City



Cebulin Elementary School, Plaridel, Misamis Occidental

To realize these, DepEd is ready to determine and recommend the appropriate budgetary requirement to support the operation of these schools. Initially, some P46.24 Billion has been proposed for the introduction of the program in 2020 as a separate item titled “Last Mile Schools Fund.” DepEd will also enjoin external partners to deliver services not covered by DepEd programs, such as the construction and rehabilitation of fences, school gates, dormitories, stages and multipurpose halls, among others.

DepEd, in all governance levels, shall facilitate convergence initiatives with the following government agencies to address the broader needs in areas that could not be addressed by DepEd, including access roads, health concerns of the community, peace and order, expansion of coverage of feeding program beyond wasted and severely wasted learners, among others:

- Department of Public Works and Highways **(DPWH)**
- Department of Health **(DOH)**
- Department of Social Welfare and Development **(DSWD)**
- Department of the Environment and Natural Resources **(DENR)**
- Department of the Interior and Local Government **(DILG)**
- Department of National Defense **(DND)**
- Armed Forces of the Philippines **(AFP)**
- Philippine National Police **(PNP)**
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples **(NCIP)**



Kiatao Elementary School, Arakan, North Cotabato

Part of this is the proposal of DepEd to DPWH of the adoption of Access Roads to All Learners (ARAL) as a flagship infrastructure program prioritizing construction of roads and bridges leading to schools.

DepEd will also engage the following agencies in the implementation of the Last Mile School Programs thru the application of alternative procurement processes and indigenous or alternative building materials to conform with the terrain and remoteness of the schools in pursuance of easy access to quality education:

- AFP Engineering Brigade
- Local Government Units
- Indigenous People’s Tribal Councils



Anuling Elementary School, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan



Don Victoriano Central School, Misamis Occidental

THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM

The Last Mile Schools Program is but a part of one big flagship program of the DepEd. Set within the framework of Public Schools of the Future, the DepEd School Building Program is that flagship project that provides for sustainable infrastructure that is safe, secure, and conducive to a teaching-learning environment. The main features of the School Building Program are the following:

- The **Construction of New School Buildings.** Every year, more school buildings, classrooms, laboratories, and workshops are constructed to meet the needs of growing student enrollment and to complement and sustain its operations.
- Another key component is the **Repair of Education Buildings and Facilities.** Under the “Repair All” Policy, public schools and offices are repaired and rehabilitated every 3 to 5 years.

- The School Building Program also covers **Gabaldon Schools Restoration.** Pursuant to the Congressional mandate, Gabaldon and Heritage School Buildings—historical testaments of the nation’s rich educational past—are to be restored. Restoration of Gabaldon school buildings shall be pursued following a set standard to preserve, as far as practicable, their inherent historical character. The passage of Republic Act No. 11194, or the **Gabaldon School Buildings Conservation Act** has strengthened DepEd’s restoration program as it clearly sets national priorities and makes illegal the demolition or transfer of Gabaldon buildings.
- Integral to the School Building Program is the **Electrification of Basic Education Facilities.** Upgrades and modernization of electrical systems and connections are underway to provide safe, adequate, and efficient energy use in schools.



- The School Building Program also includes the **Provision of School Furniture.** Every new classroom comes with it a set of new school furniture which previously is composed of armchairs for learners and table and chair for teachers. Beginning 2018, however, DepEd discontinued the delivery of arm chairs, and introduced chairs and tables that allow multiple layouts for learner collaboration and are better adapted for the use of laptops and tablets in classrooms.
- Inventory and Baseline Databasing are also covered by the School Building Program. Surveys

- and inventories of physical facilities are undertaken to set baselines and update databases.
- The School Building Program also has a **Quick Response Fund (QRF).** With a ready standby fund, immediate repairs shall be made to schools damaged by typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.
- The Program also makes use of **Parametric Insurance** as a way to protect school buildings and enable quick repairs and replacements through funds derived from insurance pay-offs.

WHAT IS PARAMETRIC INSURANCE?

Parametric Insurance guarantees a payout based on a trigger that is agreed upon before the event or disaster, and not on actual losses. A typhoon category or signal, for example, could be the agreed-upon trigger. So, when a typhoon occurs, it means that the trigger or condition has been met, and a payout is due, regardless of the damage that resulted from the typhoon or disaster.

DepEd, as a beneficiary, can then allocate the payout among the schools affected by the typhoon. This includes flexibility on what to do with the payout for those schools to recover from the disaster.

Parametric Insurance is an advantage to DepEd, given that every year, hundreds of school buildings and facilities are damaged due to various disasters.

Furthermore, parametric insurance is a risk financing solution that does not consider the vulnerability of assets for the computation of payout in the insurance model. This is advantageous to DepEd, since the assessment of the vulnerability of school buildings and facilities is an enormous task, almost impossible, due to lack of necessary data, such as as-built plans.



Batangas National High School



Medina Parado Elementary School, Dingras, Ilocos Norte

Most of these programs are funded under the Basic Education Facilities Fund (BEFF) regularly allocated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

OTHER FOCUS FOR 2020-2021

Even with these developments, there are still schools with makeshift and non-standard sized classrooms, furniture that need replacement, facilities in a state of neglect and disrepair, and other concerns that need immediate attention. These are the continuing targets of the School Building Program.

Aside from the Last Mile Schools Program, the School Building Program is setting its goals for 2020-2021 on the following:

- DepEd plans to **replace all arms chairs with tables and chairs** in all schools for the next five years to provide a more conducive teaching and learning environment in classrooms.
- DepEd also aims to **provide clean and potable water supply, comfort rooms, wash and other sanitation facilities.** Prior to 2017, school buildings were not provided with water tanks or access to water supplies.
- The School Building Program's **electrification program** will include **renewable energy with the use of solar panels.** Off-grid schools shall be equipped with alternative sources of renewable energy through the installation of solar panels.
- The School Building Program will also establish School Clinics. Public school clinics will serve as multi-service hubs catering to the various health, nutrition, and medical needs of learners and DepEd personnel.
- The School Building Program's **disaster response** shall be made efficient through a **streamlined warehouse scheme** for storage and inventory of supplies, and easier deployment and delivery of materials and equipment, such as Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) or Classroom Tents, to replace those damaged by calamities.
- The School Building Program will also focus on **completing abandoned school constructions.** These are school building projects abandoned by contractors but programmed as far back as 2014 and which remain unfinished to this day, and projects long delayed and many months beyond the maximum 240 construction days in the case of the biggest school buildings. All remaining programmed school buildings from 2014 to 2018 must be completed by December 2020.
- The School Building Program **will include mid-rise school buildings of 10-12 floors in Metro Manila and other big cities and metropolis** to address the lack of buildable spaces and the yearly increase in school enrollment.

WHY CHANGE ARMCHAIRS INTO TABLES AND CHAIRS?

Beginning 2018, DepEd has discontinued the procurement of armchairs. Instead, it introduced 2-seater tables, and chairs - one table and two chairs to enable collaborative works in the classrooms and more flexible layout.

Tables and chairs also provide more appropriate space and are better adapted to the use of tablets and laptops inside the classroom.



Tandag City Tandag City Banahao Elementary School




Baggao National High School, Baggao, Cagayan

For 2021, DepEd will program most of its BEFF allocation for the implementation of the Last Mile Schools Program which includes provision for ACCESS Buildings, for the completion of abandoned and longdelayed school building constructions, and for the provisions of clean and potable water in schools.



Indan Elementary School, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur


 Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
 Tanggapan ng Panglawang Kalihim

MEMORANDUM
 27 June 2019

For: **Regional Directors and BARMM Minister of Education
 Schools Division Superintendents
 EFD, Regional and Division Engineers
 Entire OUA Strand**

Subject: **PRIORITIES FOR 2020 AND 2021**


In view of DepEd Memorandum No. 059, series 2019, titled "Prioritizing the Development of the Last Mile Schools in 2020-2021: Reaching Out and Closing the Gap," the following **priorities** are herunder identified by the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA) and adopted in accordance to ranking for all OUA PAs:

1. Last Mile Schools
2. Facilities Damaged by Calamities (Fire, Typhoon, Flood, Earthquake)
3. Abandoned and Long-Delayed Constructions
4. Facilities with No Clean and Potable Water
5. Facilities Reported Needing Urgent Repairs/Replacement by teachers, principals, supervisors, learners and employees thru DepEd Workplace

All allocations, preparations, efforts and time must be devoted and focused in addressing the needs of the five items above. **These priorities take precedence over all other priorities of the department.**

Aside from the provisions of facilities, all other contents like school furniture, electrical upgrades and solar panels, potable and clean water, information and communications technology (ICT) equipment and connectivity, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) equipment, among others, must likewise follow the above priorities.

For information, guidance and compliance.


ALAIN DEL B. PASCOA
 Undersecretary

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COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

DepEd also looks forward to the future when the School Building Program would include other facilities that make a complete school, like:

- School Gate
- Perimeter Fence
- Pathways and Walkways
- Outdoor Stage
- Playground or Fitness Park
- Multipurpose Hall
- Court and Gymnasium
- Dormitory or Sleeping Quarters
- Canteen and Feeding Room
- Other Ancillary Structures.

DepEd is committed to the comprehensive development of schools and will continuously propose the inclusion of these ancillary facilities under the BEFF to both DBM and Congress.

This is where education partners usually come in. LGUs and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) partner with DepEd for the provisions of these facilities as the same are not included as among the educational facilities funded by GAA



Maralag Elementary School, Lapuyan, Zamboanga Del Sur


MOVING FORWARD

DepEd continues the promise of a brighter future for today's youth and future generations. With this in mind, there is no stopping, no sign of slowing down for the Public Schools of the Future, with DepEd's masterplan charted for the years to come.

With singleness of purpose, the Department of Education is steadfast in fulfilling its mandate of providing better access to basic education for all, and in realizing this noble goal in the next few years.

Indeed, the Last Mile Schools Program is proof that no mountain is too high, no sea is too deep, and no river too wide, for those who strive to make a change.

The Last Mile Schools Program will ensure that no youth is left behind, and no area is underdeveloped, finally bridging the gap and making education truly accessible to all.


 Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
 Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

MEMORANDUM
27 June 2019


For: **Regional Directors and BARMM Minister of Education
Schools Division Superintendents
ESSD and SGOD Chiefs
EPD, Regional and Division Engineers
Public Schools District Supervisors (PSDS)
Principals, School Heads, and Teachers-in-Charge**

Subject: **APPLYING THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF GAA 2019**

In accordance with the Special Provisions of the General Appropriations Acts of 2019, the following items must be considered and included in the finalization of Programs of Works (POWs) of **New Construction, Completion and Replacement of School Buildings**:

1. **Solar Panels and Dual Electrical System.** At the minimum, the solar panels must be able to power-up the new building, but may be designed to include the needs of the entire or portion of the school if the roof area is adequately enough (SP 5 [a]). **New buildings should have solar roof panels;**
2. **Complete Water and Sanitation Facilities – toilets and wash facilities,** to include water supply system by tapping any source to all available distribution points of the school or suitable water storage, motor pumps, deep wells, rain pumps, overhead water tanks, cistern tanks and other water related sources (SP 5 [a]);
3. **Canals and Drainage System** (SP 5 [a]);
4. **Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) or DepEd Temporary Classrooms** in the event that specific existing old, unsafe, condemned, makeshift or non-standard buildings need to be immediately demolished to give way to the new construction (SP 5 [c]).

Following the **"Repair All Policy" in the Implementation of Rehabilitation, Renovation, Repair and Improvement of School Buildings,** the following inclusions must likewise be considered:


ALAIN DEL PASCUA
 Undersecretary

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 Administrative Services, Information and Communication Technology, Director Risk Reduction and Management,
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- A. **Existing Water and Sanitation Facilities – toilets and wash facilities** (SP 5 [b]);
- B. **Calamity-damaged Facilities and those having immediate repair –** multipurpose building, gymnasium, stage, court, fence, walkways and others (SP 5 [b]);
- Preparatory activities** that may be funded by the Preliminary and Detailed Engineering (PDE) activities must also include the following (5 [d]):
- I. Subsoil Exploration
 - II. Perimeter Survey
 - III. Geotechnical Evaluation
- School furniture and fixtures can be allocated and acquired for both newly constructed and existing school buildings (SP 5 [e]), as such, **school furniture and fixtures for a given school must be included to address need for replacements, aside from the allocation for new classrooms.**
- In the event that the 2019 Programmed Projects have not considered all or any of the above items, **the same may be proposed as addendum for budget allocation to cover unforeseen changes** (SP 5 [a]). If the same cannot be covered by GAA 2019, the allocation shall become priority projects for GAA 2020.
- In the event that the DPWH cannot implement the project at the local level due to remote location of the school, difficulty of terrain, security issues, other valid reasons, the department and DepEd may enter into a **memorandum of agreement with the concerned local government unit, the Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP), or such other appropriate government agency, for the implementation of the project** (SP 5 [a]).
- In the validation and identification of projects for 2020-2022, all the aforesaid Special Provisions must be considered and implemented to enable the total and comprehensive development approach to the school recipients.
- For information, guidelines and compliance.


ALAIN DEL PASCUA
 Undersecretary

FAQS

WHY ARE SCHOOL BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED BY DPWH AND NOT DEPED? CAN DEPED IMPLEMENT THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM?

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is the engineering arm of the government. It is but proper that all public works are handled by them, since that is their core competence. Even if DPWH is focused on the Build Build Build Program of the Duterte Administration where massive infrastructure projects like bridges, roads, airports, etc. are simultaneously being implemented, the implementation of DepEd's School Building Program is lodged at DPWH by virtue of the Special Provisions at the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

A few years ago, DepEd itself was implementing its School Building Program thru the Principal-led scheme. The Principal-led approach ensured that the construction is monitored by the Principal with the assistance of a DepEd engineer. This approach was cited by the World Bank as one of the best practices of the implementation of the school building program.

WHY ARE THERE ABANDONED SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Prior to 2017, the budget for classroom construction was uniform whether the construction site was in the city, in the town proper, at the farthest island, or in the remotest mountain, and regardless of the varying soil conditions from one area to another. The unit cost never considered hauling, soil adaptation, and other measures necessary to specific local conditions. As such, constructions were most often abandoned and remained unfinished when no additional funds were provided.

Moreover, bad peace and order situation, difficulty in terrain and failure to access construction site during rainy season, limited availability of construction materials, escalation of expenses due to delays, and limited assets of contractors awarded with voluminous projects, have been among the identified causes of long delays and abandonment.

ARE SCHOOL BUILDINGS STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND YOLANDA-LIKE TYPHOONS?

Due to the effects of climate change and the experience of Yolanda, building designs have been modified and upgraded giving importance to its function, and maximizing its purpose. Architectural features (doors and windows), stair width, fire exit width, color scheme, structural components such beam foundations, beams, columns, and roof framings were upgraded so as to withstand major earthquakes, and 270 to 340 kph wind velocity.

The present school buildings are calamity-resilient and compliant to National Structural and Building Codes of the country.

ARE RESTROOMS AND WATER PROVIDED IN SCHOOLS?

Before 2017, school buildings have been constructed without water tanks or water supply. 3-story to 4-story school buildings have been erected with water piping system, but without supply of water or water tanks, as these have never been included among the items in the school building program.

Under the Special Provisions of the 2018 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and subsequent GAAs, it is stipulated, "for the construction, repair and completion of school buildings and technical-vocational laboratories and the construction of water and sanitation facilities to include the provision of the water supply systems by tapping any source to all available distribution points of the school or suitable water storage and the provision of electrical supply system, which may include upgrading of the existing connections and installation of transformers appropriate for the needs of the school." Hence, appropriation for water system was included for the facilitation of the water systems including toilets in the school building.



WHY THE NEED FOR MID-RISE SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN METRO MANILA AND OTHER BIG CITIES?

Metro Manila has 797 schools with 2,068,081 student population. Classroom need is pegged at 55,075 but only 34,132 is provided, leaving 22,072 unmet need, as of February 2019.

To meet this requirement, DepEd has to build 4-story 24-classroom building in each of the 797 school sites. But the problem is – there is no more buildable space for these buildings. Schools in Metro Manila have already used up most of their sites.

Among solutions to address this problem is to rent facilities from private schools, local government units, churches, and others. Another is to build school buildings outside of Metro Manila and bus in/out the students to these campuses. But these alternatives are not quite acceptable.

The remaining option is to demolish existing old school buildings and replace them with mid-rise buildings of 10 to 12 floors that can address not only the current classroom needs but meet the requirement for the next 15 to 20 years. Mid-rise buildings will, however, entail bigger maintenance costs which both the local government units and the DepEd must provide.

For the meantime, the classroom needs of Metro Manila have been addressed by creative principals and school heads who either divided classrooms to accommodate two classes instead of one; converted non-instructional rooms and other available spaces into classrooms; or scheduled classes to two or three shifts to accommodate all students.

WHY DOES DEPED DISCOURAGE THE USE OF SCHOOLS AS EVACUATION CENTERS?

Republic Act No. 10821, "Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act," stipulates that schools should not be the primary option for evacuation, and if this is unavoidable, it prescribes the limited time use of schools as evacuation centers.

In a number of cases, schools used as evacuation centers sustained damages by evacuees, and repair of facilities became the burden of school authorities. Furthermore, teachers were burdened to do camp-management work, resulting to some negative consequences to teaching and learning continuity.

DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones declared: "Education cannot wait. Education must continue; we should guarantee that whatever happens, be it armed conflict or natural disasters, education must always continue in order to restore normalcy among our learners' lives."

The prolonged use of schools as evacuation centers has led to the displacement of resident learners who initially had to hold classes under the trees, covered courts, or gyms. DepEd, in order to ensure learning continuity, usually construct Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), as temporary classrooms of the resident learners in the morning, and for the classes of the children of the evacuees in the afternoon. The double displacement has led to the shifting of classes in the schools used as evacuation centers.

This concern has already been discussed in one of the Cabinet Cluster Meetings where President Rodrigo Roa Duterte himself, instructed the construction of evacuation or temporary shelters by local government units (LGU) and the cooperation of the LGUs in the maintenance of the said evacuation centers/temporary shelters since funds shall still be provided for its daily maintenance. On September 14, 2018, President Duterte instructed the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to build more evacuation centers to minimize the use of school buildings during typhoons and other calamities, emphasizing that the longer evacuees stay in schools, the longer would be the disturbance of the education of children.

Itong “Last Mile Program” ang mabilis at seryosong tugon ng kasalukuyang pamunuan ng DepEd sa mga paaralan sa buong Pilipinas na may kakulangan sa mga gusali o silid-aralan at kagamitan, o may sirang mga gusali, silid-aralan at kagamitan.

Ito ang mga paaralan na matatagpuan sa mga malalayong bundok at mga liblib na isla, walang sementadong kalsada, may pinsala ang ilang gusali, bumabagsak na ang mga bubong at walang sapat na upuan ang mga bata.

Leonor Magtolis-Briones
Kalihim, Kagawaran ng Edukasyon



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