

PR-PAU-2025-008

**DepEd Bicol orders intensive monitoring of schools amid increased heat index**

Legazpi City, March 5, 2025 - In response to the anticipated escalation of heat index levels and the associated health and safety risks, the Department of Education (DepEd) Bicol has directed school officials to intensify monitoring efforts and conduct a granular assessment of school facilities in the region.

In a recent memorandum, Regional Director Gilbert Sadsad instructed DepEd Bicol officials to strengthen surveillance of school conditions and implement precautionary measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects of extreme heat on learners and school personnel. The periodic assessment of school facilities, in consultation with Local Government Units and health agencies that will help determine effective heat mitigation measures and guide the agency in establishing necessary interventions.

"To facilitate evidence-based decision-making and ensure prompt institutional response, Regional Office (RO), Schools Division Offices (SDOs) and schools shall submit weekly situation reports detailing class suspensions and alternative learning arrangements due to extreme heat conditions. They shall also conduct regular environmental audits to ascertain adherence to optimal classroom temperature parameters," he said.

Sadsad also mandated officials from the SDOs and the RO to regularly monitor local heat index levels and environmental conditions, utilizing data from PAGASA and other concerned authorities.

As part of recommended precautionary measures, he mentioned that schools may modify class hours, enhance ventilation systems, and provide adequate hydration facilities. Further, schools that experience extreme heat conditions may consider implementing Alternative Delivery Modes (ADM) of learning to minimize exposure risks.

Meanwhile, Director Sadsad reiterated the existing guidelines on the suspension of face-to-face classes due to intolerable heat exposure as provided for under DO 22, s. 2024. He clarified that the authority to suspend in-person classes rests with Local Chief Executives (LCEs) or Schools Division Superintendents. In cases where class suspensions are necessary, affected schools may transition to modular distance learning.

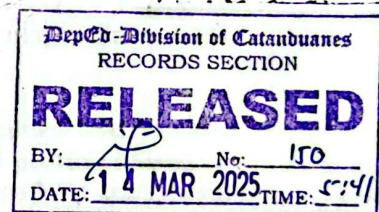
The directive follows a national weather advisory from PAGASA, which warned of a warm and dry season expected to intensify from mid-March to April that could elevate the heat index level and affect various parts of the country.

Approved for release and publication:

  
**GILBERT A. SADSAD**  
Regional Director



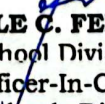
Republika ng Pilipinas  
**Kagawaran ng Edukasyon**  
REHIYON V (BIKOL)  
TANGGAPANG PANSANGAY NG MGA PAARALAN NG CATANDUANES



March 13, 2025

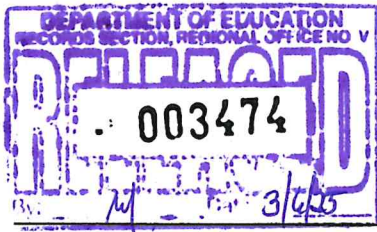
To : Assistant Schools Division Superintendent  
Chiefs, CID and SGOD  
Education Program Supervisors  
Elementary and Secondary School Heads  
All Others Concerned

For information, reference, and guidance.

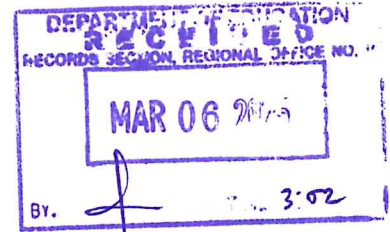
  
**CECILE C. FERRO, CESO VI**  
Assistant School Division Superintendent  
Officer-In-Charge  
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent



003474



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION V - BICOL



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PRESS RELEASE



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