Republic of the Philippines

Department of Education

REGION IV- A CALABARZON

CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF THE CITY OF TAYABAS

Advisory No. 254, s. 2026

October 06, 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
(Visit *www.deped.gov.ph*)

REQUEST OF STEDFAST BAPTIST CHURCH PHILIPPINES TO CONDUCT A CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND FAITH-BASED PRESENTATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Stedfast Baptist Church Philippines, through Mr. Duncan Urbanek, Evangelist and Missionary, has expressed its intention to conduct a one-time, 30-minute presentation for learners in public schools focusing on character development, personal responsibility, service to others, and Christian values.

The proposed activity aims to encourage learners to develop integrity, respect, diligence, compassion, and commitment toward making positive contributions to their families, schools, and communities. The presentation may also include a message of hope based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Schools intending to accommodate the request shall ensure strict compliance with **Regional Memorandum No. 426, s. 2026**, dated **June 30, 2026**, entitled **Guidelines in the Optional Conduct of Religious Instruction in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools**, and all other applicable DepEd policies, rules, and regulations.

It is emphasized that this Advisory is issued solely for information and guidance and shall not be construed as an endorsement by the Department of Education of the proponent, its organization, or any particular religious belief. Participation shall remain voluntary and subject to existing DepEd policies.

SGOD- request of stedfast baptist church philippines to conduct a character development and faith-based presentation in public schools
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON

CLMD-RA-2026-148

September 28, 2026
In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s.2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
(Visit depedcalabarzon.ph)

REQUEST OF STEDFAST BAPTIST CHURCH PHILIPPINES TO CONDUCT A CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND FAITH-BASED PRESENTATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. The Stedfast Baptist Church Philippines, through Mr. Duncan Urbanek, Evangelist and Missionary, expresses its intention to conduct a one-time, 30-minute presentation for learners in public elementary and secondary schools in the CALABARZON Region focusing on character development, personal responsibility, service to others, and Christian values.

2. The proposed activity aims to encourage learners to develop integrity, respect, diligence, compassion, personal responsibility, and commitment to making a positive difference in their families, schools, and communities. As indicated in the request of the proponent, the presentation may also include a message of hope based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. In this connection, the conduct of the proposed activity shall be subject to and consistent with **Regional Memorandum No. 426, s. 2026, dated June 30, 2026, entitled "Guidelines in the Optional Conduct of Religious Instruction in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools,"** and other applicable DepEd policies, rules, and regulations.

4. The issuance of this Advisory is for the information of Schools Division Offices and schools concerned and shall not be construed as an endorsement of the proponent, its organization, or any particular religious belief. Any participation or accommodation shall remain subject to the provisions of Regional Memorandum No. 426, s. 2026 and existing DepEd policies.

5. For the information and guidance of all concerned.

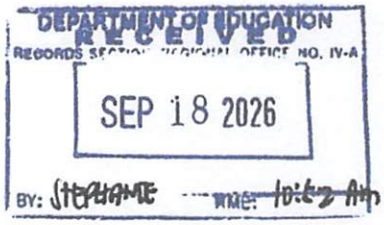
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Stedfast Baptist Church Philippines
Bagumbayan Rd, Quisao Bridge
Quisao, Pililla, 1910 Rizal

August 12, 2026

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Calabarzon Region IV-A



Director IV
Regional Director

Dear Carlito Rocafort,

My name is Duncan Urbanek, and I am an evangelist and missionary from the United States currently living in the Philippines.
I respectfully request your consideration for the opportunity to partner with schools in the CALABARZON Region by providing a one-time, 30-minute presentation for students that focuses on character development, personal responsibility, and service to others from a Christian perspective.

Our desire is to encourage students to develop integrity, respect, diligence, compassion, and a commitment to making a positive difference in their families, schools, and communities. As part of our presentation, we would also share the message of hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a manner that is respectful of the school's policies and administration.

We are willing to conduct the presentation in whatever format best suits each school's needs, whether by individual classrooms or in a school-wide assembly, according to the preference of the principal and the guidelines established by your office.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss how our church can be a blessing to the students and schools of the CALABARZON Region.

Thank you for your time, your service to the students of the region, and your thoughtful consideration of this request. We sincerely appreciate your attention and look forward to the possibility of serving alongside you.

Respectfully,

Duncan Urbanek
Evangelist & Missionary
Stedfast Baptist Church Philippines
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James Perry

SEP 22 2026

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON

CLMD-RM-2026-426

30 June 2026

Regional Memorandum
No. 426 s.2026

GUIDELINES IN THE OPTIONAL CONDUCT OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

To **Schools Division Superintendents**
All Others Concerned

1. Consistent with the Department of Education's commitment to uphold learners' constitutional rights while ensuring the protection of instructional time under the Revised K to 10 Curriculum and Strengthened Senior High School (SHS) Program aligned with the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education, this Memorandum through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), reiterates the existing policies governing the guidelines in the optional conduct of religious instruction in public elementary and secondary schools throughout Region IV-A CALABARZON.

2. For purposes of this Memorandum, "optional religious instruction" refers to faith-based instructional activities conducted by duly authorized instructors designated or approved by the appropriate religious authorities of recognized religious organizations, pursuant to Article XIV, Section 3(3) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and existing DepEd issuances. These activities may include, but are not limited to, Bible studies, catechetical instruction, Qur'anic instruction, and other similar doctrinal or faith formation activities, provided that they comply with all applicable constitutional and Department policies.

3. This Memorandum is issued pursuant to the following:

    3.1. Article XIV, Section 3(3) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which provides that religion may be taught in public elementary and secondary schools during regular class hours upon the written request of parents or guardians, by instructors designated or approved by the religious authorities of the religion to which the learners belong, and without additional cost to the Government;
    3.2. DepEd Order No. 49, s. 2009, *Reiterating the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Teaching of Religion in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools*;
    3.3. DepEd Order No. 105, s. 2010, *Reiterating the Constitutional Right of DepEd Personnel and Students to Free Exercise of Religion*;

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3.4. DepEd Order No. 32, s. 2013, *Strengthening the Protection of the Religious Rights of Students*; and

3.5. DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026 Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education

4. To ensure faithful compliance with the foregoing issuances, all public elementary and secondary schools shall observe the following:

   4.1. Religious instruction shall remain strictly voluntary and shall be conducted only upon the written request of the parents or legal guardians of participating learners.

   4.2. Religious instruction shall be facilitated only by instructors duly designated or authorized by the appropriate religious authorities.

   4.3. Public schools shall maintain religious neutrality by providing equal opportunity to all recognized religious groups that satisfy the requirements prescribed under existing laws and DepEd policies. No religious denomination shall be given preferential treatment.

   4.4. Participation or non-participation in religious instruction shall not affect the academic standing, school privileges, or treatment of any learner.

   4.5. Learners who do not participate shall remain under appropriate school supervision and shall continue with alternative educational or school-supervised activities, as determined by the school head.

5. In accordance with the DepEd policy on the implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar, which prioritizes the protection of instructional time and the uninterrupted delivery of the Revised K to 10 Curriculum and the Strengthened Senior High School Program, all public elementary and secondary schools shall ensure that the optional conduct of religious instruction is implemented in a manner that upholds both the constitutional right to religious instruction and the integrity of the instructional program. Accordingly, schools shall observe the following:

   5.1. Optional religious instruction shall not interrupt, reduce, or compromise the protected instructional time allotted for the delivery of the prescribed curriculum, learning competencies, and other authorized learning activities.

   5.2. Optional religious instruction shall not be conducted during the Instructional Block, which is exclusively reserved for curriculum delivery and learner engagement. Such activities shall instead be scheduled before or after regular class hours or during other appropriate non-instructional periods that do not disrupt teaching and learning.

   5.3. The conduct of optional religious instruction shall not replace, shorten, or substitute any required learning area, instructional period, contact time, assessment activity, or other curricular requirement prescribed under the Revised K to 10 Curriculum and the Strengthened Senior High School Program.

   5.4. School Heads shall be responsible for ensuring that the implementation of optional religious instruction remains fully compliant with the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, applicable DepEd issuances on religious instruction, and the policies governing the Three-Term School Calendar, while maintaining fairness, inclusivity, and respect for religious diversity.

6. School Heads shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Memorandum by:

    6.1. Ensuring strict compliance with the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and applicable DepEd issuances governing optional religious instruction;
    6.2. Verifying the written requests of parents or legal guardians prior to allowing learners to participate in optional religious instruction;
    6.3. Coordinating with duly authorized religious instructors and concerned stakeholders on the scheduling and implementation of optional religious instruction;
    6.4. Ensuring that the conduct of optional religious instruction fully complies with the policies on the protection of instructional time under the Three-Term School Calendar;
    6.5. Upholding inclusivity, respect for religious diversity, and the constitutional rights of all learners; and
    6.6. Maintaining appropriate records and documentation on the conduct of optional religious instruction for monitoring, reporting, and other official purposes.

7. Schools Division Offices, through their respective functional divisions, shall monitor compliance with this Memorandum and provide technical assistance to schools as necessary.

8. This Memorandum shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until amended, repealed, or superseded by subsequent DepEd issuances.

9. For queries or concerns, please contact Ms. Margaret P. Musa, Education Program Supervisor in GMRC and Values Education, through clmd.calabarzon@deped.gov.ph

10. For information, guidance, and strict compliance.

CARLITO D. ROCAFORT
Regional Director IV

02/ROC7