



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

REGION IV- A CALABARZON
CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF THE CITY OF TAYABAS

31 July 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 514 s. 2026

**SAFER SCHOOL ZONES (SSZ) UNDER THE SAFER CITIES
AND SAFER COMMUNITIES' INITIATIVE**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
Heads, Unit/Section
All Others Concerned

1. This Office disseminates **DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-037**, titled **Safer School Zones (SSZ) Under the Safer Cities and Safer Communities Initiative**, which provides clearer and more practical guidance on the authorized roles, coordination arrangements, and operational boundaries of barangay tanods within school zones.
2. The Memorandum aims to support peace and order and public safety while preserving the mandates of school authorities and other competent agencies. Likewise, it supports the Department's strategic direction of promoting safer, more orderly, and more secure communities, particularly in areas affecting learners and the school community.
3. Relative thereto, all school heads are hereby reminded to coordinate closely with their respective barangay officials for the effective implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the provisions of this **DILG Memorandum Circular**. Further, please be guided that the reporting system for this Circular shall follow the school terms prescribed under **DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026**.
4. Attached is the **DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-037** for your reference.
5. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


CELEDONIO B. BALDERAS JR.
Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.: As stated

References: DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-037

DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

SAFETY
SCHOOL

SGOD- safer school zones (ssz) under the safer cities and safer communities initiative
SGOJ2707-005313/July 31, 2026



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. **2026-037**

TO : ALL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANs, DIRECTORS OF DILG REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL, CITY OFFICES, CITY/MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS OFFICERS, CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : SAFER SCHOOL ZONES (SSZ) UNDER THE SAFER CITIES AND SAFER COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

DATE : JUN 25 2026

1. Background

In support of the national government's continuing efforts to maintain peace and order and strengthen public safety consistent with the Safer Cities and Safer Communities Initiative, as reinforced through DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-029 dated 08 April 2026 titled "Encouraging the Enactment of Local Ordinances for Safer Cities: A Call to Action for Local Government Units", the Department recognizes the need to strengthen safety measures in areas immediately outside schools and along the routes commonly used by learners, parents, guardians, and school personnel before, during, and after class.

In these spaces, risks relating to crime, traffic and pedestrian exposure, accident-prone conditions, fire and other safety hazards, reported stray or free-roaming animals, particularly dogs, localized disaster risks, and similar concerns may directly affect the safe access, movement, and well-being of learners and the school community.

This policy direction is aligned with the public safety thrust to not only reduce crime but also to make people feel safe at all times. Schools should be peaceful and safe for learners, teachers, parents and all community members. These considerations underscore the need for visible, organized, and lawful barangay support in school zones through prompt reporting, coordination, and assistance within the lawful functions of barangay tanods.

Accordingly, this Memorandum Circular is issued to support DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2025-072, titled "Deployment of Barangay Tanods in the Department of Education Schools." This issuance further aligns barangay school zone interventions with the mandates of barangays under Republic Act No. 7160 and the guidance provided under DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2024-086,

particularly on the duties and responsibilities of barangay tanods, gun prohibition, complaints involving children, and capacity development.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum Circular is to provide clearer and more practical guidance on the authorized roles, coordination arrangements, and operational boundaries in school zones of barangay tanods in support of peace and order and public safety, while preserving the mandates of school authorities and other competent agencies.

Ultimately, this Circular supports the Department's strategic direction of promoting safer, more orderly, and more secure communities, particularly in areas affecting learners and the school community.

3. Legal Compliance

- 3.1. Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution, which declares that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;
- 3.2. Art. II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;
- 3.3. Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, particularly Section 16, Section 387(b), Section 391(a)(16), and Section 393(d), which collectively authorize barangays to promote public safety, organize community brigades or barangay tanods, and support them through lawful measures;
- 3.4. DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-029 dated 08 April 2026 re Encouraging the Enactment of Local Ordinances for Safer Cities: A Call to Action for Local Government Units, particularly its policy direction encouraging LGUs to strengthen local public safety through the strict enforcement of ordinances and preventive measures;
- 3.5. DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2024-086 dated 26 June 2024, or the Omnibus Policy on the Administration and Strengthening Capacities of Barangay Tanods as Agents of Peace and Development, particularly the provisions on duties and responsibilities, gun prohibition, complaints involving children, and capacity development; and
- 3.6. DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2025-072 dated 24 July 2025, or the Deployment of Barangay Tanods in Department of Education Schools, which directs barangays to coordinate with DepEd schools for the deployment of barangay tanods to assist in traffic management, patrol, monitoring, and immediate reporting of untoward incidents in and around school premises.

4. Scope/Coverage

This Memorandum Circular (MC) covers City and Municipal Mayors, Sangguniang Panlungsod and Sangguniang Bayan, Punong Barangays, DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers, and all others concerned.

5. Definitions

For purposes of this Memorandum Circular, the following definitions apply, unless otherwise stated:

- 5.1. **Hotspot** - refers to a specific place in the school zone where incidents, accidents, hazards, unsafe conditions, or recurring safety concerns, such as poor lighting, especially in schools with night classes, open manholes, damaged sidewalks, obstructed pedestrian paths, traffic congestion, speeding vehicles, unsafe loading and unloading areas, and similar risks, are observed, reported, or likely to occur.
- 5.2. **School zone** - refers to the external vicinity of a school where learners' access, movement, and safety may be affected, including adjacent public roads, sidewalks, crossings, waiting areas, transport points, loading and unloading areas, and other nearby public spaces commonly used by learners, parents, guardians, and school personnel before, during, and after class.
- 5.3. **School coordination** - refers to the structured and continuing arrangement between the barangay and the school concerned, whether public or private, for the purpose of sharing information, identifying school zone concerns, establishing contact and reporting channels, and facilitating timely coordination on incidents, hazards, and other conditions affecting the safety, access, movement, and well-being of learners and the school community.
- 5.4. **Term-based report** - refers to the report submitted three (3) times per school year, corresponding to the end of each term under the applicable school calendar. For the purpose of this issuance, reporting schedules are expounded on Section 7 of this Memorandum Circular.

6. Policy Content and Guidelines

6.1. General Guidelines

6.1.1. Operations Shall Be Outside the School Premises

Barangay tanod operations under this Memorandum Circular shall generally be limited to the external vicinity of schools and nearby public areas affecting learner's access, movement, and safety. Entry into school grounds may be made only upon the request, consent, or coordination of school authorities and only for immediate lawful assistance, coordination, referral, or turnover.

In the case of private educational institutions, entry into school premises for purposes of immediate lawful assistance shall be subject to prior

written consent or a standing memorandum of agreement between the Barangay and the school authorities concerned.

6.1.2. Barangay Tanods as Support Actors

Barangay tanods shall remain unarmed civilian community support actors. Their school zone functions are limited to visible presence, roving, traffic assistance, observation, assistance in orderly movement, initial assistance, immediate reporting, referral, and turnover to proper authorities.

Barangay tanods shall not assume functions reserved by law or policy to competent authorities, including police officers, firefighters, health responders, social workers, and school officials. They shall not conduct criminal investigation, custodial handling, emergency medical response without proper training, or social welfare intervention and case management.

6.1.3. Referral

The barangay shall immediately report, refer, or turn over matters to the proper authority in cases involving children, women, grave threats, serious assault, trafficking, missing persons, suspected illegal drugs, fire incidents, medical emergencies, animal bite or stray-animal incidents, disaster-related risks, or other specialized matters. The barangay shall contact the PNP, BFP, C/MDRRMO, local health office, local social welfare office, school authorities, animal control or veterinary office, 911/E911, or other proper authorities, as applicable.

6.2. S.A.F.E.R. School Zones Framework

Steps	Actions
S - Survey and coordinate	• Identify all schools within the barangay's jurisdiction. • In coordination with the concerned school, PNP and BFP local units, determine and validate school zone hotspots, including school gates, sidewalks, crossings, terminals, waiting areas, nearby commercial spaces, transport loading points, and other areas materially affecting learner safety. • Coordinate with the School Head or authorized representative.
A - Assign and deploy	Develop and implement a barangay tanod deployment schedule aligned with school operating hours and identified risk periods.
F - Facilitate safe movement	Ensure visible presence and lawful assistance in public areas such as crossings, sidewalks, waiting areas, and loading/unloading points.
E - Escalate urgent concerns	Immediately report and refer incidents, hazards, and emergencies to the proper authority.
R - Report and review	Record observations, submit the term report, and improve the next deployment schedule based on recurring concerns.

6.3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.3.1. Punong Barangay

- a. Lead the implementation of this Memorandum Circular in the barangay;
- b. Ensure that schools within the barangay, upon coordination with proper authorities, are covered by practical barangay tanod visibility arrangements;
- c. Approve the barangay tanod deployment schedule prepared by the Chief Tanod/Executive Officer;
- d. Ensure the immediate referral of incidents to the proper authorities; and
- e. Submit the barangay term report to the Office of the Mayor, copy furnished the City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officer (C/MLGOO) or DILG City Director.

6.3.2. Chief Tanod or Executive Officer (Ex-O)

- a. Prepare and regularly update the barangay tanod deployment schedule;
- b. Conduct briefing sessions with assigned barangay tanods on their lawful duties, limits, and referral procedures;
- c. Collect deployment logs and incident observations from assigned barangay tanods;
- d. Consolidate observations and recurring hotspots and submit them to the Punong Barangay; and
- e. Prepare the barangay term-based report for submission to and approval of the Punong Barangay.

6.3.3. Barangay Tanods

- a. Maintain a visible and orderly presence within their assigned school zones;
- b. Assist in ensuring safe pedestrian movement and the orderly use of public spaces, strictly in the capacity of traffic guides or pedestrian marshals, without issuing traffic citations or otherwise exercising formal traffic enforcement powers.
- c. Observe and record hazards, incidents, and recurring concerns;
- d. Report urgent concerns immediately to the Chief Tanod, Punong Barangay, and proper authorities; and

- e. Avoid actions outside their mandate, especially investigation, custodial handling, use of firearms, specialized response, and entry into school premises without school coordination.

6.3.4. Sangguniang Barangay

Enact or pass appropriate local legislative measures that ensure budgetary support, barangay peace and order planning, and coordination with schools and offices concerned.

6.3.5. Sangguniang Kabataan

Support learner and youth safety activities, information dissemination, and youth participation in non-enforcement activities, consistent with law and applicable rules.

6.3.6. Mayors

- a. Ensure the timely submission of reports from barangays within their areas of jurisdiction.
- b. Implement appropriate actions on the reports submitted by the barangay particularly, those included in the term-based reports.
- c. Provide support to the barangays through coordination mechanisms, local road safety measures, traffic management, local disaster risk reduction and management, social welfare referral, animal control or veterinary services, engineering support, lighting and infrastructure interventions, and other public safety actions within their respective mandates.

6.3.7. DILG Field Offices

C/MLGOOs, DILG City Directors, Provincial Offices, Regional Offices, and the NBOO shall provide monitoring support, consolidate reports, and provide technical guidance consistent with this Memorandum Circular and subsequent instructions of the Department. More details in Section 7 of this Memorandum Circular.

7. Monitoring, Reporting and Consolidation

7.1. Term-Based School Zone Safety Reporting

Beginning School Year (S.Y.) 2026-2027, reporting under this Memorandum Circular shall be term-based. Barangays shall submit reports three (3) times per school year, corresponding to the end of each school term under the applicable DepEd school calendar.

The reporting system shall follow the school terms prescribed under DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026¹, subject to any amendment, adjustment, or subsequent issuance by the Department of Education. For succeeding school years, the Department may issue supplemental guidance to align reporting periods with the applicable DepEd school calendar.

See table below for calendar of submissions:

Report	Coverage	Barangay submission	Instruction
Term 1 Report	June 8 to September 15, 2026	Within five (5) working days after the end of Term 1 (September 25, 2026)	Consolidation and school coordination shall be during the End-of-Term Block
Term 2 Report	September 16 to December 18, 2026	Within the first five (5) working days of January 2027 (January 08, 2027)	Avoid requiring school personnel to submit during the Year-End Break from December 19-31, 2026.
Term 3 / End-of-School-Year Report (EOSY)	January 4 to April 8, 2027	Within five (5) working days after the end of Term 3 (April 15, 2027)	School-level inputs should be completed on or before April 8, 2027; avoid additional school submissions during the teachers' EOSY break except for emergencies or exigency.

7.2. Flow of Submission

Flow of the submission of reports shall be as follows:

Level	Responsible Office	Action
1	Barangay	Prepare and submit Annex D to the Office of the Mayor, copy furnished the C/MLGOO or DILG City Director.
2	C/M LGOO / DILG City Director	Check the completeness and encode or consolidate through the prescribed Google Monitoring Sheet or other platform.
3	DILG Provincial Office	Consolidate city and municipal submissions, except for HUCs and ICCs which shall be handled by the DILG City Director .

¹ DepEd Order No. 009 s. 2026 dated April 16, 2026 0 Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education

4	DILG Regional Office	Consolidate provincial and city submissions and transmit them to the NBOO.
5	DILG Central Office through NBOO	Undertake national consolidation, analysis, and report generation for policy monitoring and management action.

7.3. DILG Reporting Platform

7.3.1. For purposes of DILG's report consolidation under this Memorandum Circular, the **Safer School Zones - Google Monitoring Sheet (SSZ-GMS)** shall be utilized.

7.3.2. In order to preserve the security of the SSZ-GMS, each DILG Regional Office is advised to designate a **SSZ Focal Person**. Said SSZ Focal Person shall secure access on their respective SSZ-GMS from the NBOO.

Below are the Regional Links for **SSZ-GMS for S.Y. 2026-2027**:

REGION	LINK
Region I	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-I-SY-2026-2027
Region II	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-II-SY-2026-2027
Region III	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-III-SY-2026-2027
Region IV-A	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-IV-A-SY-2026-2027
MIMAROPA	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-MIMAROPA-SY-2026-2027
Region V	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-V-SY-2026-2027
Region VI	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-VI-SY-2026-2027
Region VII	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-VII-SY-2026-2027
Region VIII	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-VIII-SY-2026-2027
Region IX	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-IX-SY-2026-2027
Region X	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-X-SY-2026-2027
Region XI	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-XI-SY-2026-2027
Region XII	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-Region-XII-SY-2026-2027
Region XIII	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-CARAGA-SY-2026-2027
CAR	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-CAR-SY-2026-2027
NIR	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-NIR-SY-2026-2027
NCR	https://bit.ly/SSZ-GMS-NCR-SY-2026-2027

8. Annexes

The following annexes are accessible through: <https://bit.ly/MC-SSZ-Annexes>.

Annex	Title	Purpose
Annex A	SAFER School Zones Coordination Form	Barangay-school contact and coordination document
Annex B	School Inventory and Contact List	List of schools and contact persons in the barangay
Annex C	Barangay Tanod Deployment and Observation Log	Daily or weekly record of barangay tanod deployment, observations, incidents, and referrals
Annex C-1	SAFER School Zones Incident Report Form	

Annex D	SAFER School Zones Term Report	Barangay report submitted three times per school year
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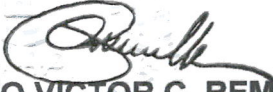
9. Effectivity

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

10. Feedback

For clarifications and related inquiries concerning this policy issuance, all concerned are advised to contact the National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO) – Citizen's Affairs and Political Development Division through the Citizens' Affairs Section (CAS) via Trunkline No. (02) 8876-3454 local 4408.

11. Approving Authority


JUANITO VICTOR C. REMULLA
 Secretary

