



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

November 23, 2020

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **587**, s. 2020

**STRATEGIC AND ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR THE EFFICIENT DELIVERY
OF DISTANCE LEARNING DELIVERY MODALITIES IN THE REGION**

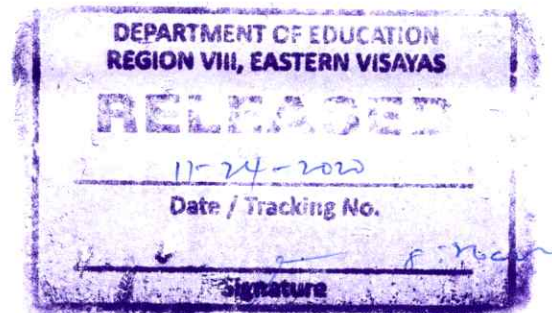
To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. In view of the challenges and limitations that need to be addressed to fully provide all the desired learning modalities stipulated in Regional Memorandum 564, s. 2020 re: Adoption of Other Learning Modalities to Supplement the Modular Approach in compliance with DepEd Order No. 18, s. 2020 (Policy Guidelines for the Provision of Learning Resources in the Implementation of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan) and DepEd Order No. 19, s. 2020 (Application of Adaptive Strategies for Financing and Resource Mobilization for the Implementation of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan for School Year 2020-2021), this Office directs the Schools Division Offices (SDOs) to adopt some strategic and alternative measures that will ensure efficient delivery of the needed distance learning delivery modalities (DLDMs) in the Region.
2. The acquisition of facilities/equipment/materials and the conduct of activities that will support the DLDMs including the provision of online and recorded lectures complemented by but not limited to educational TV and radio-based instructions shall be prioritized if the situation warrants shall be charged to the downloaded Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan Funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and procedures.
3. For teaching personnel who are expected to provide online and recorded lectures but unable to do so due to the unavailability of resources, lack of technical competence in the production of required materials, and the inability of the learners to access and effectively-utilize or take advantage of the said modalities, and inadequacy of funds, the following measures shall be undertaken while the ideal practice is still not feasible:
 - a. conduct of periodic home visitations with due consideration to health protocols;
 - b. establishment of a remote but open communication channel between a learner and his or her teacher;



- c) participation in school/ district/ or Division-based capability-building activities that will develop or enhance the skills of teachers in providing the needed distance and blended-learning modalities; and
 - d) forging of partnerships with stakeholders who can support measures to provide the DLDM to all learners.
4. Other useful strategies and mechanisms may also be undertaken provided that these will contribute to the realization of the BE-LCP.
5. All the Schools Division Offices (SDOs) shall monitor the compliance of the schools with this directive subject to the existing conditions in the locality and the availability of resources.
6. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.


RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO IV
Director IV 



Enclosures: Auditor's Rejoinder to the Management Comments re: AOM No. 2020-11
Letter request for additional funds to the DepEd Central Office

References: As stated

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

AOM-COA

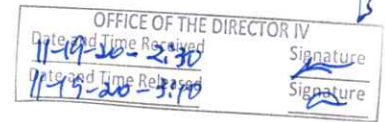
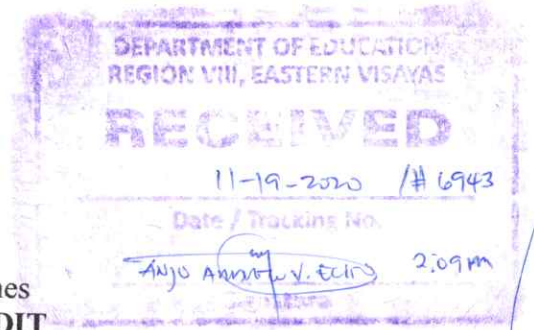
BE-LCP

DBLM

CLMD-DME



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. VIII
Office of the Regional Supervising Auditor
NGS Cluster 5-Education & Employment
Leyte Government Center, Candahug



November 18, 2020

RAMIR B. UYTICO, EdB, CESO IV
Regional Director
Department of Education
Regional Office No. VIII

Dear Director Uytico:

This respectfully is our Auditor's Rejoinder to the Management Comments your Office rendered in connection with our Audit Observation Memorandum (AOM) No. 2020-011 dated October 29, 2020 under which the hereunder quoted parts were noted:

- a. Page 2, 2nd paragraph, sentence 1: "In view of the particular context of the learners and schools and IATF Policy x x the region has implemented Modular Distance Learning (MDL) as the main learning delivery modality." (underscoring supplied)
- b. Page 2, 5th paragraph, sentence 1: "Moreover, the region, SDOs and schools shall update their LCPs in harmony x x with Online Distance Learning (ODL), TV-Video/Radio-based Instruction (TV-Video/RBI), and Blended Learning (BDL) as learning delivery modalities in addition to Modular Distance Learning (MDL)." (underscoring supplied)
- c. Page 3, 1st paragraph, last sentence: "Nonetheless, as stipulated in Deped Order No. 7, s. 2020 x x and the guidelines issued by IAFT as well as the directives of the Office of the President (OP), schools and Community Learning Centers (CLCs) are still given the leeway to adopt one or a combination of these learning delivery modalities." (underscoring supplied)
- d. Page 5, 1st paragraph, sentence 2: "Schools Division Superintendents are required to submit the respective requirements for the adoption of the blended learning to the Regional Office x x" (underscoring supplied)
- e. Page 5, 2nd paragraph, last sentence: "Teachers and other school personnel shall submit to the school heads documents as proof of their

service – Accomplishment Report, Daily Time Records, Home Visitation Reports, subject to Inter-Agency Task Force protocols and other related issuances x x” (underscoring supplied)

- f. Page 5, 3rd paragraph, sentence 1: “As provided for in DM-CI-2020-00162 x x teachers in the new normal and while implementing distance learning, still perform teaching-related roles and responsibilities in the absence of the actual classroom instruction x x” (underscoring supplied)

From the foregoing, while your Office at first mandated for the updating of LCPs by its various Operating Units (OUs) in harmony with ODL, TV-Video/RBI and BDL as cited under item (b) hereof; in item (c), it ended with giving OUs leeway to adopt one or a combination of these learning delivery modalities. Furthermore, under item (d) hereof, a directive about adoption of blended learning was erroneously indicated instead of the mandated “Distance and Blended Learning Modality”. By these, we regretfully opine two important erroneous discretions of the Office base on the rendered Comments as follows:

- I- Failure in requiring substantial compliance with the mandates of Dep Ed Order No. 18 and 19 dated July 20, 2020 as well as August 20, 2020, respectively, despite the absoluteness of the directives expressed therein specifically with respect to compliance with “online distance learning” wherein the rendition of online or recorded lectures are required in addition to the currently adopted SLMs distribution; and
- II- Failure in requiring all teaching personnel to render lectures, whether online or recorded, despite the absoluteness in the directives of both Dep Ed Order Nos. 18 and 19 with respect to the mandate on adoption of “Distance and Blended Learning Modality” specifically to be carried out supposedly through distribution of Self Learning Modules (SLMs) under Modular Distance Learning complemented with online and educational television and radio based instruction as well as the Blended Learning Modality (BLM) of face to face reporting to schools by teachers.

On Item I, we assert that both rules are clear regarding the absolute and final adoption, rather than as mere option, of “SLMs distribution to be complemented with online and educational television and radio based instruction”. These are made clear under these quoted policies-

- i) “SLMs will be the backbone distance learning mechanism to accompany textbooks, complemented by other distance learning

modalities such as online and educational television and radio” as provided under item 6.6 of Dep Order No. 18; and

- ii) “Scenario 2: Conservative. Distance and blended learning modality only, no face-to face; Teachers will report to school regularly (with protocols on health standards) x x the most DOABLE option for now until the end of the fiscal year is the CONSERVATIVE scenario x x” as provided under page 3 Table 2 and page 5 paragraph 3 of Dep Ed Order No. 19; (underscoring supplied)

as such, all are to be directed to conform thereto with all funds provided for BE-LCP to be utilized fully to make the particular “Distance and Blended Learning Modality” (DBLM) a possibility in all schools and grade levels region-wide.

The rationale behind our contention is that online and educational television and radio are the specific distance learning modalities expressed under Dep Ed Order No. 18 which are to co-mingle with the recently adopted region-wide Self Learning Modules (SLMs) distribution. Whereas, finally on top of all contemplated Learning Delivery Modalities, such distance learning modalities are in turn directed under Dep Ed Order No. 19 to absolutely co-mingle with Blended Learning Modality (BLM) as it totally mandates the adoption of the so-called “DBLM” with said BLM expressed therein as to require every teacher a face to face reporting to schools not for classroom teaching but in terms of using Information Technology Equipment and tools for the maximum use of these resources. In this instance however, the requisites of Alternative Work Arrangement (AWA) are to be further followed as mandated under pertinent Civil Service Commission rules like its currently issued Memorandum Circular No. 18, s of 2020 dated October 15, 202 particularly items 3.1 and 3.2 thereof with respect to Work From Home as well as Skeletal Work Force, respectively.

On Item II, the Office through its recently issued Regional Memorandum (RM) No. 564 omitted to direct the rendition by all Teaching Personnel region-wide of lectures, whether online or recorded, even if this process is possible whether or not in remote areas or in places without internet connectivities. This instance occurred despite their being requirements under the mandated “online distance learning” which is directed to necessarily CO-EXIST with SLMs distribution. In fact teachers are merely required to render teaching-related roles and responsibilities rather than DIRECTLY comply with their main responsibilities of carrying out teaching or lectures, online or recorded, as cited in item (f) hereof.

While DM-CI-2020-00162 and Dep Ed Order No. 7 s 2020 allow rendition merely of teaching-related duties and discretion by OUs to adopt chosen Learning Delivery Modalities (LDMs), Dep Ed Order Nos. 18 and 19 are absolute in their directives regarding adherence by all to “Distance and Blended Learning Modality” as the LDMs, thus, should be complied with for which available funds and other resources are to be fully utilized if Region 8 is to effectively and efficiently attain the goal of

Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) while the pandemic subsists considering that in learning the process of teaching by teachers being the sole trained ones, is gravely indispensable.

In view of the aforementioned, all our recommendations embodied in the subject AOM are herein reiterated to include as an added proposed measure, the issuance of further directives at your level regarding rendition of online or recorded lectures by all teaching personnel to warrant a conclusion in audit that indeed the allocated Personnel Services for such manpower are appropriately as well as validly used consonant likewise to relevant provisions of laws like RA No. 6713 and Section 2 of PD No. 1445 both of which mandate that government resources are to be safeguarded against loss or misuse including their utilization efficiently, effectively and economically. Said online or recorded lectures shall however be supported significantly with the necessities as specified per the said AOM to make their implementation possible using further at all extent, the funds intended for BE-LCP.

On the other hand, we appreciate the issuance by your Office of RM No. 564 dated November 9, 2020. Such, in every aspect, clearly supported our aforesaid AOM which is herein humbly proposed to be updated urgently to include the rendition of online or recorded lectures by all teaching personnel, for it to warrant a conclusion that courses of actions made from your level downward are towards valid and appropriate utilization of funds for the attainment of the intents of BE-LCP as specifically provided in detail under Dep Ed Order No. 18 and other relevant rules.

Thank you very much for all support with notice that the audits to be rendered on BE-LCP funds region-wide which are currently on-going consonant to instructions from COA authorities shall be in conformity with all foregoing unless validly objected to which we request to be in writing and duly supported with appropriate documentations for our information and guidance.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. MA. JERICA B. CASTROVERDE
Regional Supervising Auditor


JOSEPHINE S. MATUGAS
Audit Team Leader-Team R8-10