



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

May 02, 2024

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. **521** s. 2024

**ROLL-OUT OF BATANG EMPOWERED AND RESILIENT TEAM (BERT)**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education Region VIII - Eastern Visayas in partnership with Save the Children Philippines, issues the enclosed guidelines on the Roll-Out of Batang Empowered and Resilient Team (BERT) which aim to institutionalize the BERT in all public schools.
2. These guidelines provide the minimum instructions on how to begin with the roll-out of BERT. The School Watching Team (SWT) to every school described in DepEd Order No. 23, s. 2015 shall act as BERT and shall adopt its programs and activities.
3. The BERT program supports DepEd Order No. 33, s. 2021 titled School-based Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures for Tropical Cyclones, Flooding and Other Weather- related Disturbances and Calamities, which further ensures safety in schools as part of the disaster preparedness mechanisms and mitigation.
4. All public elementary and secondary schools are directed to utilize the BERT materials. Printing of the modules and other related expenses shall be charged against the Disaster Preparedness and Response Program (DPRP) Funds and/or other available sources of funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
5. All Division DRRM Coordinators in collaboration with the Division Learner Formation Coordinators shall facilitate the conduct of the training on BERT for all school DRRM coordinators.
6. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

  
**EVELYN R. FETALVERO, CESO IV**  
Regional Director

Enclosures: As stated

References: As stated

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

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## **GUIDELINES ON THE ROLL-OUT OF BATANG EMPOWERED AND RESILIENT TEAM (BERT)**

### **1. Rationale**

Children are among the most vulnerable inside and outside of school during disasters or any other serious disruptions affecting the community. School children should be equipped with the capacity to know man-made and natural hazards, help them understand the risks and vulnerabilities that could affect them, and equip and engage them to be prepared for any emergencies or disasters.

The Student-Led School Watching and Hazard Mapping (DepEd Order No. 23 s. 2015) encompasses the initial steps in organizing the School Watching Team (SWT) to be aware of the potential hazards within and around the school. This will also help in inculcating a culture of safety in the learners' daily activities.

BERT capacitates our learners on what to do before, during, and after a disaster.

### **Objectives**

- Identify hazards and distinguish them from disasters;
- Identify vulnerabilities and learn to increase the capacity to lessen the impact of disasters;
- Know and understand Children's Rights;
- Familiarize with early warning signs and evacuation route; and
- Understand life-saving skills and basic first aid

### **2. Scope**

This covers all public elementary and secondary schools in the DepEd Region VIII - Eastern Visayas. All Private Schools, technical and vocational institutions, and higher education institutions, including state and local universities and colleges offering K to 12 Basic Education Program are encouraged to implement according to their philosophy, vision, and mission, with the approval of their respective DepEd Regional Directors.

### **3. Definition of Terms**

BERT - Batang Empowered and Resilient Team  
DRRM - Disaster Risk Reduction and Management  
DRRMS - Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Services  
SWT - School Watching Team

### **4. Policy Statement**

This policy requires all public elementary and secondary schools to adopt the Batang Empowered Resilient Team (BERT) Program.

Awareness and preparedness is a must since calamities may come without warning. Education for disaster preparedness can provide lifesaving and life-sustaining information and capacitate skills that may protect particularly the most vulnerable groups during and after emergencies.



BERT will prepare learners for potential disasters, thereby reducing the impact of said disaster. If the learners can then transfer the knowledge to other learners and as well as to the members of their families, it becomes general knowledge, and the community can prepare as well.

This program supports various DepEd policies relative to DRRM such as DepEd Order No. 50, s. 2011 entitled "Creation of DRRM Office", DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2007 entitled "Prioritizing the Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the School System and Implementation of Programs and Projects Relative Therefore", DepEd Order No. 23 s. 2015 entitled "The Student-Led School Watching and Hazard Mapping", and DepEd Order No. 33, s. 2021 entitled "School-based Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures For Tropical Cyclones, Flooding and Other Weather- related Disturbances and Calamities", which seek to mainstream the implementation of DRRM in the systems and processes of the Department in all public elementary and secondary schools.

## **5. Procedures**

### **Organization of School Watching Team**

The School Watching Team (SWT) is an integral part of the School DRRM Team (SDRRMT). It plays a major role in the conduct of the yearly School Watching and Hazard Mapping where data are gathered in terms of the school's vulnerabilities to risks and disasters. This data gathering is one of the preparatory activities in the crafting of the Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) and Enhanced School Improvement Plan (SIP).

SWT is composed of at least 10 learners and guided by a Teacher-Moderator. The Teacher-Moderator can be a School DRRM Coordinator or a member of the SDRRMT.

The selection process for the SWT should be based on DepEd Order No. 23, s. 2015. Schools may conduct a selection process since its members are expected to present in front of the class.

### **Training of School DRRM Coordinators**

The Division shall conduct the BERT training for all School DRRM Coordinators. The three core modules are the Learn, Survive, and Be Protected.

### **School Training**

The School DRRM Coordinators act as facilitators in their respective schools.

They may form SWT-BERT facilitators from Grade 4 to Grade 6 to form three teams. For secondary schools, they may form one team per grade level from Grade 7 up to Grade 12, a total of 6 teams composed of at least 5 members per grade level. Six teams would be necessary considering that many secondary schools are

big. Each team may be giving a presentation in front of the class (same grade level) on a scheduled basis.

It is suggested to conduct a BERT presentation after the flag ceremony, after the afternoon class, or during the class period where DRRM can be integrated into a subject. All private schools are encouraged to adopt the BERT Program.

### **Support from LGU and other Stakeholders**

All divisions may tap stakeholders for support in the roll-out of BERT.

### **BERT ROLL-OUT (SWT-BERT presentation in school)**

After training the BERT Team, the final output would be the presentation in front of the class or the **Peer-To-Peer Teaching** and this should be done regularly at least once a year. They will give a presentation on the three stations, the difference between Hazard and Disaster, the list of things contained in an emergency bag, first aid kit, and others.

For big schools, the school may organize a program where all learners are gathered in a gymnasium and the SWT-BERT will present in front of them. The school should prepare a script and rehearse the team for the big event.

## **6. Monitoring and Evaluation**

All School DRRM Coordinators/BERT advisers shall submit accomplishment reports (e.g.: photo documentation with the narrative report, attendance sheet, and pre-post test result).

## **7. References/Resources**

Student-Led School Watching and Hazard Mapping - DepEd Order 23, s. 2015  
Prioritizing the Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the School System and Implementation of Programs and Projects Relative Therefore - DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2007

School-based Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures For Tropical Cyclones, Flooding and Other Weather- related Disturbances and Calamities- DepEd Order No. 33, s. 2021

Click the Link or Scan the QR Code to Access and Download the BERT Modules

<http://bit.ly/3ZrBJWy>



### **8. Effectivity**

This issuance shall immediately take effect upon approval. BERT programs and activities shall then be officially included as part of the regular program and activities of the School Watching Team (SWT) and be implemented in all schools in DepEd Region VIII - Eastern Visayas.