Republic of the Philippines
# Department of Education
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**
No. 1339, s. 2026

NOV 17 2026

**CONDUCT OF A NATIONWIDE TREE-PLANTING AND SCHOOL BASED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION INITIATIVE**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. This Office, through the Education Support Services Division (ESSD), disseminates Memorandum DM-OUGOPS-2026-07-04662 from the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations dated November 06, 2026 titled **"Nationwide Tree-Planting and School-Based Environment Action Initiatives in Observance of the 2026 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week."**

2. In this regard, the Education Support Services Division (ESSD) shall monitor the implementation of the activity.

3. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

**RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III**
Regional Director

Encl.: As Stated
Reference: As Stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subject:

LEARNERS PROGRAMS

MPJDP/ESSD/ Nationwide Tree-Planting and School-Based Environment Action Initiatives in Observance of the 2026 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week
_____/November 17, 2026

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Republika ng Pilipinas
# Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

**MEMORANDUM**
**DM-OUGOPS-2026-07 - 04662**

TO : **Regional Directors**
**Schools Division Superintendents**
**School Heads**
**All Others Concerned**

ATTN : **Youth Formation Coordinators**
**Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O) Officers and Advisers**

FROM : **MALCOLM S. GARMA**
*Undersecretary for Governance and Operations*

SUBJECT : **NATIONWIDE TREE-PLANTING AND SCHOOL-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION INITIATIVES IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 2026 GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK**

DATE : November 06, 2026

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1667, s. 2008, and Memorandum Circular No. 140, s. 2026, the Department of Education (DepEd) joins the nationwide observance of the **2026 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on November 19–25, 2026**, with the theme *"Komunidad, Kooperasyon at Koordinasyon para sa Klima."* The observance underscores the importance of collective action among government institutions, schools, communities, and other stakeholders in apdvancing climate awareness, environmental protection, and climate resilience.

In support of this initiative, and in recognition of the increasing importance of climate adaptation and preparedness amid the prevailing El Niño conditions, the DepEd, through the Bureau of Learner Support Services–Youth Formation Division (BLSS-YFD), shall spearhead the conduct of a **Nationwide Tree-Planting and School-Based Environmental Action Initiative on November 20, 2026**, with the active participation of the Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O) officers, advisers, and other interested learners and school personnel.

The initiative aims to strengthen environmental responsibility, climate consciousness, and learner participation through meaningful, sustainable, and community-responsive environmental activities. Specifically, it seeks to encourage learners to actively participate in environmental conservation, support school and community preparedness for the effects of El Niño, promote responsible use of natural resources, and strengthen partnerships among schools, local government units, and relevant environmental agencies.

All public elementary and secondary schools, through their respective YES-O officers and advisers, are encouraged to conduct simultaneous tree-planting activities on November 20, 2026, after the conduct of the Monday Flag Ceremony, subject to local environmental conditions, availability of appropriate planting sites, and the necessary arrangements to ensure the survival and continued care of planted seedlings. Schools are likewise encouraged to implement complementary environmental activities during the observance of Climate Change Consciousness Week, which may include the following:

1. **Tree Planting and Tree-Growing Activities.** Planting of Philippine native, fruit-bearing, and other locally appropriate tree species, together with the establishment of learner-led tree adoption, maintenance, and monitoring initiatives.
2. **Water Conservation and El Niño Preparedness Campaigns.** Conduct of school-based information campaigns, water conservation audits, water-saving challenges, and learner-led advocacy activities promoting responsible water consumption and preparedness for prolonged dry conditions.
3. **School and Community Environmental Action.** Implementation of waste reduction and segregation initiatives, recycling and upcycling activities, school gardening, environmental clean-up drives, and other locally appropriate conservation efforts.
4. **Climate Change Awareness and Learner Advocacy.** Conduct of climate education sessions, information dissemination campaigns, environmental exhibits, peer-led discussions, and other learner-initiated activities highlighting climate change adaptation, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.
5. **Sustainable School Greening Initiatives.** Establishment or maintenance of school nurseries, gardens, and existing green spaces, including appropriate soil and water conservation measures to improve their sustainability during dry conditions.

The implementation of the nationwide initiative shall be guided by the provisions of **Annex A (Implementation Guidelines)** of this Memorandum, which outlines the coordination arrangements, roles and responsibilities, suggested activities, and sustainability measures.

To support the tree-planting activities, **DepEd Regional Offices (ROs), through their respective Schools Division Offices (SDOs), shall coordinate with their counterparts in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** for the identification of suitable tree species, possible provision of seedlings, technical guidance on appropriate planting sites, and recommended tree-growing and maintenance practices. Schools may likewise coordinate with the concerned City or Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices, local government units, and other relevant partners for additional technical and logistical assistance.

The selection of planting sites and tree species shall consider local climate conditions, availability of water, suitability of the soil, and the long-term sustainability of the activity. In areas experiencing dry conditions or limited water supply, schools may prioritize the maintenance and protection of existing trees, nursery development, or other appropriate environmental conservation activities, in consultation with DENR or the concerned local environment office.

The implementation of these activities shall be facilitated by the YES-O officers and advisers, under the supervision of their respective School Heads and in coordination with the school learner government and other relevant school clubs and organizations, as appropriate. Schools shall ensure that learner participation is voluntary, inclusive, age-appropriate, and consistent with existing policies on learner protection, safety, and the conduct of school activities.

Participating schools are encouraged to maximize available resources, existing materials, and partnerships in implementing the activities. Any expenses that may be incurred shall be subject to the availability of funds and the usual government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

To document the implementation of the initiative, participating schools shall prepare a brief accomplishment report using the prescribed **School Accomplishment Report Template (Annex B)**, indicating the activities conducted, number of participating learners, number and species of trees planted, where applicable, and corresponding sustainability or maintenance arrangements. Reports shall be consolidated through the Schools Division Offices (SDOs) and Regional Offices (ROs) for submission to the BLSS-YFD, in accordance with the timelines and reporting arrangements provided in Annex A.

The Department emphasizes that the observance of Climate Change Consciousness Week shall not be limited to a one-time tree-planting activity but should encourage sustained learner-led environmental actions and the development of responsible environmental practices within schools and their respective communities.

For questions and clarifications, please contact the Bureau of Learner Support Services–Youth Formation Division through email at **blss.yfd@deped.gov.ph**.

For information, guidance, and appropriate action.

Annex A. **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR THE NATIONWIDE TREE-PLANTING AND SCHOOL-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION INITIATIVE IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 2026 GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK**

**I. General Guidelines**

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall spearhead the Nationwide Tree-Planting and School-Based Environmental Action Initiative on **November 20, 2026**, in observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week from November 19 to 25, 2026.
2. The initiative shall be implemented primarily through the Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O), with the support of school heads, YES-O advisers, learner governments, and other school clubs and organizations, as appropriate.
3. Participating schools shall conduct tree-planting activities and other environmental initiatives that promote climate change awareness, environmental conservation, responsible resource utilization, and preparedness for the possible impacts of El Niño.
4. Schools shall determine the appropriate activities based on local environmental conditions, available resources, learner needs, and opportunities for collaboration with relevant government agencies and community partners.
5. Activities shall be learner-centered, inclusive, age-appropriate, and consistent with existing DepEd policies on learner protection, safety, and the conduct of school activities.

**II. Coordination and Preparation**

6. DepEd Regional Offices (ROs), through their respective Schools Division Offices (SDOs), shall coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), particularly its regional and field offices, for technical assistance in the implementation of the tree-planting activities.
7. Coordination with DENR may include the following:
    a. Identification and possible provision of suitable seedlings, particularly Philippine native and locally appropriate fruit-bearing tree species;
    b. Assessment and identification of appropriate tree-planting sites, considering local environmental and climatic conditions;
    c. Provision of technical guidance on proper planting procedures, tree-growing practices, and seedling maintenance; and
    d. Recommendations on appropriate environmental conservation and rehabilitation activities, particularly in areas experiencing prolonged dry conditions.
8. In cases where seedlings cannot be provided by DENR, participating schools may utilize seedlings from existing school nurseries or coordinate with their

respective City or Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices, local government units (LGUs), and other relevant partners.

9. School Heads, through their YES-O advisers, shall facilitate the identification of appropriate planting sites, available resources, learner participants, and arrangements for the continued care and maintenance of planted trees.
10. School grounds shall be prioritized as planting sites, provided that sufficient space and suitable environmental conditions are available. Where necessary, schools may coordinate with barangays, LGUs, or other concerned authorities for the use of community parks, public spaces, or designated rehabilitation areas, subject to the necessary permissions and technical recommendations.

**III. Conduct of the Nationwide Tree-Planting Initiative**

11. All participating schools are encouraged to conduct simultaneous tree-planting activities on **November 20, 2026**, with YES-O officers serving as the principal learner organizers and participants, under the guidance and supervision of their advisers and School Heads.
12. The selection of seedlings shall consider the suitability of tree species to the planting location, availability of water, soil conditions, and long-term maintenance requirements. For coastal areas, mangrove planting may be considered only in ecologically suitable sites and in consultation with DENR or the concerned local environment office.
13. Schools shall ensure that the necessary tools and materials are available during the activity. Existing school resources and materials may be utilized to minimize additional expenses.
14. Appropriate planting techniques, protection of seedlings, and arrangements for watering and maintenance shall be observed. Each participating school shall identify responsible persons or groups for post-planting monitoring and care.
15. In areas experiencing water shortages, prolonged dry conditions, or other environmental constraints, schools may undertake alternative or complementary activities, such as maintenance of existing trees, nursery development, soil conservation, and water conservation initiatives, upon consultation with appropriate environmental authorities.

**IV. Suggested School-Based Environmental Activities**

16. In addition to the nationwide tree-planting initiative, YES-O officers are encouraged to initiate and implement the following environmental activities:

| **Suggested Activity** | **Description / Expected Output** |
|---|---|
| **Adopt-a-Tree and Tree-Growing Program** | YES-O members adopt newly planted or existing trees, maintain simple monitoring records, and coordinate their care with school personnel |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Every Drop Counts: School Water Conservation Campaign** | Learner-led water conservation information drives, identification of water-saving practices, and monitoring of avoidable water wastage |
| **El Niño Ready Schools Campaign** | Peer-led awareness sessions, posters, information materials, and school preparedness discussions focusing on heat, water conservation, and environmental protection |
| **YES-O Climate Action Challenge** | Learner groups identify a school environmental concern and implement a practical, low-cost project addressing the issue |
| **Green School, Green Community** | School and community clean-up activities, waste segregation, recycling, upcycling, and maintenance of green spaces |
| **School Nursery and Sustainable Gardening** | Establishment or improvement of school nurseries and gardens using appropriate species and water-efficient practices |
| **Climate Conversations and Environmental Advocacy** | Peer-led discussions, environmental exhibits, reflection activities, and advocacy campaigns promoting climate responsibility and community resilience |

17. The activities may be integrated into existing YES-O programs, General Plans of Action, and other approved learner formation initiatives. Schools may select one or more activities depending on their available resources and local priorities.
18. YES-O officers are encouraged to involve other learners through inclusive and meaningful participation, ensuring that the activities are not limited to elected officers and organization members.
19. Schools are encouraged to strengthen coordination with their respective learner governments, which may assist in learner consultation, information dissemination, coordination with other school organizations, and mobilization of volunteers.

**V. Learner Safety and Protection**

20. School Heads and YES-O advisers shall ensure appropriate supervision, safety measures, and compliance with existing learner protection policies throughout the conduct of the activities.
21. Tree-planting and outdoor environmental activities shall be conducted only when weather and site conditions are safe. Schools shall consider heat exposure, availability of drinking water, accessibility of the venue, and the physical capabilities of participating learners.
22. Appropriate arrangements, including parental consent where required, shall be secured for activities conducted outside school premises.

23. Learners shall not be assigned hazardous tasks, including handling dangerous equipment, entering unsafe areas, or performing activities beyond their age and capabilities.
24. Schools shall comply with applicable DepEd guidelines on class schedules, instructional time, and learner participation. No suspension of classes or shift to asynchronous learning is authorized under these guidelines.

**VI. Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting**

25. Participating schools shall document the activities conducted and prepare a brief accomplishment report containing the following information:
    a. Name of school, SDO, and region;
    b. Environmental activities conducted and their corresponding dates;
    c. Number of participating learners and personnel;
    d. Number and species of trees planted, if applicable;
    e. Location of planting sites and maintenance arrangements;
    f. Participating partners, including DENR, LGUs, or community organizations, if applicable; and
    g. Activity photographs and a brief description of accomplishments.

26. Schools shall submit their accomplishment reports to their respective SDOs on or before **November 30, 2026**. SDOs shall consolidate school reports for submission to their respective ROs on or before **December 4, 2026**.
27. ROs shall submit their consolidated regional accomplishment reports to the BLSS-YFD on or before **December 11, 2026**, through the reporting mechanism to be communicated by the Division.
28. ROs are encouraged to share the consolidated tree-planting information with their DENR regional counterparts for monitoring and possible technical validation.

**VII. Sustainability and Continuing Environmental Action**

29. School Heads, in coordination with YES-O advisers and officers, shall establish arrangements for the continued care and maintenance of planted trees, including the designation of responsible personnel or learner groups and the periodic assessment of tree conditions.
30. Where trees are planted outside school premises, appropriate coordination with LGUs, barangay officials, or concerned community partners shall be undertaken to ensure continuity of care.
31. YES-O officers are encouraged to incorporate follow-through activities into their approved General Plans of Action, particularly tree-growing, water conservation, waste reduction, and community-based environmental projects.
32. Schools shall prioritize the sustainability and measurable environmental benefits of their initiatives, recognizing that the success of the program depends not only on the number of trees planted or activities conducted but

also on sustained learner participation and the continued protection of the environment.

## VIII. Funding and Other Provisions

33. The implementation of the initiative shall maximize available school resources, existing partnerships, and voluntary support from concerned government agencies and community stakeholders.
34. Any expenses incurred in the implementation of the activities shall be subject to the availability of funds and the usual government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.
35. For questions and clarifications, concerned offices may coordinate with the BLSS-YFD through **blss.yfd@deped.gov.ph**.

**Annex B. School Accomplishment Report**

**I. SCHOOL INFORMATION**

| Particulars | Details |
|---|---|
| Name of School | |
| School ID | |
| Schools Division Office | |
| Region | |
| Name of YES-O Adviser | |
| Date/s of Activities Conducted | |

**II. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED**

Check all applicable activities and indicate the number of participating learners.

| Environmental Activity | Conducted (✓) | No. of Learners |
|---|---|---|
| Tree Planting and Tree-Growing | | |
| Water Conservation and El Niño Preparedness Campaign | | |
| School and Community Environmental Action | | |
| Climate Change Awareness and Learner Advocacy | | |
| Sustainable School Greening Initiatives | | |
| Others (please specify): _____ | | |

Total Number of Unique Learners Participating: _____ Total Number of Personnel Participating: _____

**III. TREE-PLANTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)**

| Tree Species | Number Planted | Location of Planting Site | Source of Seedlings |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

**IV. COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Partner Agencies/Organizations:

_____

Assistance Provided (e.g., seedlings, technical assistance, logistics):

_____

**V. SUSTAINABILITY AND MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Briefly describe continued care, maintenance, and monitoring of planted trees and other initiatives:

_____

_____

Responsible Person/Organization:

_____

## VI. DOCUMENTATION

Attach two to four activity photographs, with brief captions indicating activity, date, and location.

## VII. CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided in this report is true and correct based on the activities conducted by the school.

Prepared by:

_____
YES-O Adviser
Date: _____

Noted by:

_____
School Head
Date: _____