



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 393, s. 2025

SEP 18 2025

REQUEST FOR DATA AND INFORMATION

To Schools Division Superintendents of Negros Occidental and Canlaon City
Division DRRM Focal Persons
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is a letter from the Commission on Human Rights requesting data and information related to the effects of Mt. Kanlaon's unrest. The letter outlines seven (7) specific items for which the required data must be provided.
2. For more information, contact **Engr. Marlon B. Bungcasan** through email at bungcasanmarlon@gmail.com / nir@deped.gov.ph.
3. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III
Regional Director

Encl.: As Stated
Reference: RPP-L12H25-215
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following:

DATA
SAFETY

MBB/ESSD/RM Request for Data and Information
___/September 17, 2025

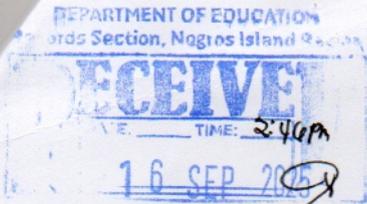


Address: Batinguel, Dumaguete City, 6200

Telephone Nos:

Email Address: nir@deped.gov.ph

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/nir-gov-ph>



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Negros Island Region

RELEASED	
12 September 2025	
Posting <input type="checkbox"/>	Courier <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Email/Viber <input type="checkbox"/>	Personal <input type="checkbox"/>
Time: 4PM	By: <i>[Signature]</i>

12 September 2025

RAMIR B. UYTICO, EdD, CESO III

Regional Director

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – NEGROS ISLAND REGION

Barangay Batinguel, Dumaguete City,
Negros Oriental, 6200 Philippines

Thru : **Salvacion J. Senayo**
Officer-In-Charge
Schools Division Office - Canlaon City

Gladys Amylaine D. Sales
Superintendent
Schools Division Office-Negros Occidental

Subject: Request for Data and Information

Dear *Regional Director Uytico*:

Good day!

This pertains to the recent letter reply sent by Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to the Department of Education (DepEd) regarding the disruption caused by the volcanic activities of Mt. Kanlaon. In light of the ongoing challenges faced by learners in affected areas, the CHR wishes to reiterate its commitment to respect, protect, and fulfill children's rights, including the right to education, especially in times of natural disasters and displacement. *(A copy of the letter of DepEd and the reply of CHR, respectively, are attached for reference.)*

The CHR, in its capacity as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), through its Negros Island Region (NIR) Office, has been actively monitoring the impact of Mt. Kanlaon's unrest. In line with this, and to support our ongoing monitoring, we respectfully request your office to provide the following data related to the effects of the volcanic unrest, particularly in SDO-Canlaon City and Negros Occidental as well as other affected schools, affecting the delivery of basic education services:

CHR ng lahat: Naglilingkod maging sino ka man

CHR Negros Island Region, East 4 Center, Burgos Ext. Barangay Villamonte, Bacolod City
Tel. Nos. (63) 920 514 5436 • (63) 956 768 4793

1. Total number of enrolled learners in affected schools before and after the onset of volcanic eruption in December 2024 and subsequent volcanic unrest;
2. Comparative data of enrolled learners vis-à-vis active learners, per month or periodic intervals, in affected schools covering the period of volcanic eruption and/or unrest up to the present;
3. Disaggregated data (if available) by grade level, sex, age, and displacement status;
4. Identified gaps in the continuity of education (e.g., loss of classrooms, lack of learning materials, displacement of teachers or students, etc.);
5. Immediate and long-term measures undertaken to address these gaps;
6. Challenges and barriers currently affecting learners' access to education in evacuation centers or host communities; and
7. Other relevant details relevant to the delivery of education services from the start of the volcanic eruption/unrest until the present.

These data will be instrumental in the formulation of appropriate rights-based recommendations to the National Government and other concerned agencies, in collaboration with the DepEd.

Rest assured that any information shared will be handled with the utmost respect for confidentiality and in accordance with applicable data protection regulations.

We look forward to your positive response and thank you for your continued partnership in advancing the right to education, especially during times of crisis.

Respectfully,

ATTY. GAZZELENNE B. CORSAME-FUENTES
Officer-In-Charge, CHR-NIR

CHR ng lahat: Naglilingkod maging sino ka man

CHR Negros Island Region, East 4 Center, Burgos Ext. Barangay Villamonte, Bacolod City
Tel. Nos. (63) 920 514 5436 • (63) 956 768 4793



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

RPP-L-12H25-215

12 August 2025

HON. JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA

Secretary

Department of Education

Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Dear **Secretary Angara**:

The Commission on Human Rights shares the Honorable Secretary's grave concern regarding the situation of learners, children, and families whose lives are disrupted due to natural hazards in the Kanlaon Area.

Every child indeed has the right to survival, development, and protection, and the Philippines has the obligation to uphold these as signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Displacements have frequently disrupted education, and interrupted children's learning. As early as 2011, Filipino children have voiced their needs through the *Children's Charters for Disaster Risk Reduction*. This child-centered manifesto has called for the protection of children before, during, and after a disaster; that schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted; and that community infrastructure must be safe, and relief and reconstruction must help reduce future risks, among others.¹

Disasters and displacements—exacerbated by climate change—are real, emerging, and persistent barriers to the right to education in the Philippines. This is seen both physically (in displaced learners and families, destruction of infrastructure, loss of school days) and mentally (mental health impacts, pressure on household incomes).²

¹ CHR, *Human Rights Advisory on Upholding the Rights of Internally Displaced Children* (CHR(VI) A2025-009 (May 26, 2025)).

The Commission commends the Department of Education's efforts in deploying alternative community strategies and modalities as temporary measures, *and* also recognizes that the situation calls for a whole-of-society approach.

In order to capture the concerns of both the Department of Education and the Commission, we would like to invite you to a meeting to develop a joint policy advisory *or* public call on the situation of displaced learners with recommendations addressed to the National Government.

The Commission, as part of its mandate as a National Human Rights Institution, will also continue to monitor the situation of learners' right to education and experience of displacements in the mentioned areas.

We likewise seek the Department of Education's support in urging the Philippine Government to ratify the new Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to strengthen the right to free education, and enjoin the 20th Congress to enact *The Magna Carta of Children* to adopt comprehensive strategies to fully respect, protect, and fulfill children's rights, including the right to education.

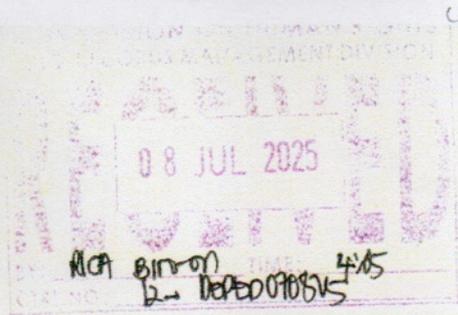
Sincerely,



RICHARD P. PALWAL-LATOC
Chairperson



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



July 6, 2025

ATTY. RICHARD P. PALPAL-LATOC
 Chairperson
 Commission on Human Rights
 SAAC Building, UP Complex, Commonwealth Avenue
 Diliman, Quezon City

Dear Chairperson Palpal-Latoc:

I write to follow through on our recent conversation regarding the situation in the Kanlaon area, where ongoing volcanic activity has severely disrupted education and displaced many families.

As of the latest reports, four schools under the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Canlaon have been directly affected, displacing 727 learners and personnel. Likewise, in SDO Negros Occidental—specifically in La Castellana—three schools have been impacted, with 676 learners and personnel evacuated.

These communities are facing not only physical displacement but also a slow and silent erosion of the fundamental right to education. Many of our learners now live in overcrowded evacuation centers, makeshift shelters, or have no stable shelter at all. Without safe learning spaces, structured routines, and access to basic learning materials, education is increasingly out of reach for these children.

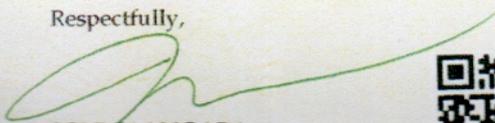
DepEd has deployed learning continuity strategies, activated alternative delivery modes, and partnered with local government units for temporary solutions. However, these can only go so far in the absence of adequate shelter, sustained food support, and psychosocial services—essential foundations for effective learning.

We respectfully urge the Commission on Human Rights to view this not just as a social welfare concern, but as a pressing human rights issue. In this regard, we hope the CHR may consider the following actions:

- Issue a public call highlighting the educational deprivation caused by inadequate housing and relief mechanisms in disaster-affected communities;
- Initiate or support policy dialogue on embedding education needs more concretely within humanitarian and rights-based response frameworks;
- Engage with relevant national and local agencies to strengthen child-centered and education-protective protocols in disaster response.

With CHR's leadership and voice, we believe we can build a more rights-based, child-sensitive approach to disaster response—one where education is protected at all costs.

Thank you for your continuing partnership in championing the rights and welfare of our most vulnerable learners. I look forward to working closely with your office on this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

SONNY ANGARA
 Secretary

