



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
**NEGROS ISLAND REGION**

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. 073, s. 2026

JUL 06 2026

**PARTICIPATION IN THE SIMULTANEOUS FLAG RAISING CEREMONY  
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 2016 SOUTH  
CHINA SEA ARBITRAL AWARD**

To: Assistant Regional Director  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Chiefs, Functional Divisions  
All Others Concerned

1. This Office, through the Education Support Services Division, disseminates the attached Memorandum from **Hon. Fatima Lipp D. Panontongan**, Undersecretary and Chief of Staff regarding the **Participation in the Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony in Commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award on July 6, 2026, which is self-explanatory.**
2. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

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

Reference: As stated

Incl: None

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

LEARNERS

PROGRAMS

SCHOOLS

FDM/ESSD-RM/ South China Sea Arbitral Award  
\_\_\_/July 2, 2026



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Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Bureau and Service Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads  
All Others Concerned

**FROM :**   
**ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN**  
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff

**SUBJECT :** Participation in the Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony  
in Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the 2016  
South China Sea Arbitral Award

**DATE :** July 2, 2026

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In line with the whole-of-society commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award on July 12, 2026, all Department of Education (DepEd) regional offices (ROs), schools division offices (SDOs), and public elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to participate in the **Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony on July 6, 2026**.

The activity, organized by the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea, aims to highlight the significance of the landmark 2016 Arbitral Award and reaffirm the Government's commitment to upholding the rule of law, sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction, and lawful maritime entitlements.

Participation in the Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony is intended to foster greater awareness and appreciation among learners, teaching and nonteaching personnel, and education stakeholders of the importance of the 2016 Arbitral Award and the country's sovereign rights, while encouraging responsible citizenship and informed civic engagement.

The ROs and SDOs are encouraged to provide appropriate support to schools within their respective jurisdictions to facilitate participation in the observance.

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For inquiries and coordination regarding this activity, the concerned offices may contact the **National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea** through its designated focal person, Ms. Ina Deuna, by mobile at 0917-514-2351.

For information, guidance, and appropriate action.

## **Annex A**

### **Script Guide for the Simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony**

*“As we honor our flag today, we also commemorate our nation's historic victory in the 2016 South China Sea Arbitration—a landmark triumph that affirmed the Philippines' maritime rights and entitlements and, more importantly, nullified expansive, baseless claims in our waters.*

*We take this moment to recognize our brave servicemen and women, our dedicated public servants, our resilient fishermen, and every Filipino who continues to stand watch over and defend our sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea. Their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism embody the enduring spirit of our nation.*

*Ten years on, our resolve remains unshaken. United as one people, we will continue to stand firm in upholding our gains under the 2016 Arbitral Award not only for this generation but also for those yet to come.”*