



July 1, 2019



REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 322, s. 2019

**PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND BAN ON SOFT DRINKS IN ALL DEPED
ACTIVITIES, TRAININGS, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS**

TO: Assistant Regional Director
Chiefs of the Regional Functional Divisions
Schools Division Superintendents
Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
All concerned
This Region

1. The Department of Education issues the enclosed guidelines for the implementation on the Use of Single-Use Plastic and Ban on Soft Drinks in all DepEd Activities, Trainings, Seminars and Workshops pursuant to Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution which provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature, and Section 2, Article I of Republic Act 9003 otherwise known as An Act Providing for an Ecological Solid Waste Management Program, Creating Necessary Institutional Mechanisms and Incentives, Declaring Certain Acts Prohibited and Providing Penalties Therefor, and for Other Purposes provides among others, that:
 - Set guidelines and targets for solid waste avoidance and volume reduction through source reduction and waste minimization measures, including composting, recycling, re-use, recovery, green charcoal process, and others xxxunderscoring ours xxx;
 - Encourage cooperation and self-regulation among waste generators through the application of market-based instruments.
2. Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The current tax reform law which increased excise tax on Sugar-Sweetend Beverages (SSB) was implemented to regulate the ill-effects of diabetes, obesity and such other illness derived from soft drinks consumption. Soft drinks contain sugar, artificial sweetener, caffeine, phosphorous, and carbon acids which have harmful effects on the body.
3. The Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) has promulgated GPPB Resolution No. 25-2017 entitled "*Recognizing the Green Public Procurement Roadmap and adopting technical specifications for the ten Common-Use Supplies and Equipment (CSE) and ten Non-Common-Use Supplies and Equipment (NON-CSE)*" wherein Food and Catering Services is one of the prioritized Non-Common-Use Supplies and Equipment to be included in the Green Public Procurement Roadmap.

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(085) 342 - 8207




caraga@deped.gov.ph



www.caraga.deped.gov.ph



4. The Department of Education, as a national government agency and one of the member agency of the GPPB is under obligation to observe the foregoing Constitutional provisions, laws and regulations to ensure an ecologically balanced working environment, with efficient, effective and healthy human resource. Accordingly, DepEd Caraga hereby adapts a policy that during DepEd initiated activities, seminars, trainings, and workshops, the use of single-use plastic containers and serving soft drinks to participants shall be prohibited.
5. Regional and Schools Division procurement committees shall align their specifications with these laws, GPPB rules and regulations and integrate in their conditions of procurement the prohibition on the distribution of and use of single-use plastic containers and serving of soft drinks to participants. A potable and safe drinking water in a dispenser shall be provided instead of bottled water. Participants, are reminded, whether in the Schools Division or Regional level training/seminars, to bring personal plastic water tumblers which will be utilized as water containers.
6. Widest dissemination of this memorandum is desired.


FRANCIS CESAR B. BRINGAS, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Officer In-Charge
Office of the Regional Director

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