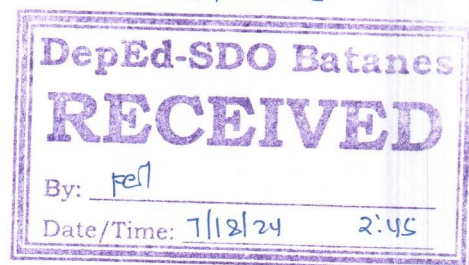




PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE

July 17, 2024

Mr. ALFREDO B. GUMARU, JR., EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Department of Education
Basco, Batanes



Dear Sir Gumaru,

Greetings of good health, peace, and solidarity.

The Provincial Health Office participated in the 2024 Capacity Development Training for Mental Health last July 9-11, 2024, organized by the Municipal Local Government of Basco in partnership with the Philippine Mental Health Association Incorporated-Batanes Satellite Office (PMHA). The Mental health Outreach Program aims to promote awareness, provide education and offer support on mental health issues to our community. This event featured a range of activities, including training/workshops, mental health check-ins and psychiatric consultations, and mentoring training for Health Officers to conduct psychiatric assessments and prescribe medications.

During the mental health check-ins and consultations with the students, we encountered numerous cases of bullying including physical, emotional and mental abuse. This issue is concerning as it impacts the mental health of students who experience such bullying. We believe that education plays a crucial role in preventing bullying and promoting a culture of empathy and kindness among students.

To address this issue and provide security to our students and other victims, as well as concerned parents like us, we would like to request your assistance in addressing this issue through the following:

1. Integrating anti-bullying programs into your curriculum to educate students about the consequences of bullying and the importance of kindness and respect for one another.
2. Providing training for teachers and school personnel in recognizing signs of bullying and how to respond appropriately.
3. Establishing a school-based support system for students who are victims of bullying, including counselling services and peer support groups.
4. Encouraging Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) to organize community events and activities that promotes anti-bullying initiatives.

We believe that by working together, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for our children to learn and grow. We would appreciate any updates on your office's plan to address this issue and would be happy to collaborate with you in any way possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

ALLAN M. SANDE, MD
Provincial Health Officer II

Noted by:

MARIKOU H. CAYCO
Provincial Governor

Smoking is dangerous to your health!

