

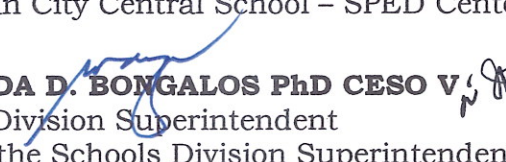


Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII - CENTRAL VISAYAS
DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS - TAGBILARAN CITY

**Office of the Schools Division
Superintendent**

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
CID-2024- 182

TO : **LEMUEL A. BAROL**
Principal
Tagbilaran City Central School – SPED Center

FROM : **WILFREDA D. BONGALOS PhD CESO V** 
Schools Division Superintendent
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

SUBJECT : **BENCHMARKING ACTIVITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU)
OF ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN**

DATE : October 10, 2024

1. Attach is a letter from Mr. Jan Marianne R. Fontelera, Acting City Mayor of Alaminos City, Pangasinan, requesting to conduct benchmarking activity on the best practices and exemplary work implemented by Tagbilaran City Central – SPED Center particularly on various disability awareness and sensitivity programs, like sign language, and support system or partnerships built with the Local Government Unit in the afternoon of October 16, 2024.
2. The benchmarking team is composed of sixteen (16) participating individuals that include the Sangguniang Panglungsod Committee on Social Welfare, the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) and representatives of the Alaminos City Schools Division Office. Please find attached proposed itinerary for your reference.
3. The school head is requested to prepare a comprehensive ASL/FSL program and DAS initiatives, highlighting key successes and challenges. The visiting team is eager to engage in discussions, so please anticipate a Q&A session after the presentation. They will also observe classes and interact with educators.
4. Expenses relative to the conduct of the activity shall be charged against local funds subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
5. Ensure that all necessary arrangements are made to facilitate a smooth and informative visit. This includes the availability of key personnel who can provide detailed insights into the programs.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this memorandum is desired.

WDB/JAAL/CID/JTB/jcl



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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pangasinan
City of Alaminos

OFFICE OF THE CITY VICE MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
Alaminos City, Pangasinan
RELEASED
Date: 09-20-2024 Time: 1:00 PM
Serial No: 355 By: NMB

Alaminos City, Pangasinan

19 September 2024

DR. WILFREDA D. BONGALOS, PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Division of City Schools – Tagbilaran City

RELEASED
DATE: 09/20/2024 TIME: 1:42
CONTROL NO.: _____ BY: _____
CITY ARCHIVES OFFICE
ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN

Thru: Ms. Nhelly Canada Lafuerto, Education Program Supervisor – SPED

Dear Dr. Bongalos,

Warm greetings from the City of Alaminos, home of the Hundred Islands!

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Alaminos City, Pangasinan, is deeply committed to enhancing its policies and programs on sign language and disability awareness and sensitivity. To this end, we seek to learn from the exemplary work being done by the Department of Education (DepED) in Bohol. Specifically, we hope to gain insights on how your Division of City Schools – Tagbilaran City implement various disability awareness and sensitivity programs, like sign language, and what support system or partnerships you have built with the Local Government Unit.

We have been particularly impressed by the initiatives your organization has implemented to promote inclusivity and support individuals with disabilities. We believe that by understanding and observing your strategies and programs, we can significantly improve our efforts in Alaminos City.

During our three-day benchmarking visit to Bohol on October 16-18, 2024, we hope that we could visit the Deped Division of City Schools – Tagbilaran City in the afternoon of **October 16, 2024** and engage with you and/or your staff/ beneficiaries on your best practices. The benchmarking team is composed of the Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee on Social Welfare, the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO), and representatives of the Alaminos City Schools Division Office. Please find attached our project brief and proposed itinerary for your reference. We would greatly appreciate if Bohol Deaf Academy could accommodate our request. Our focal person, **Ms. Jane Fontelera, LLSO VI (with email: vmionfontelera.comms@gmail.com and CP No. 09086082626)**, will get in touch with your good office for coordination needs.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to your favorable response.

Respectfully,

JAN MARIONNE R. FONTELERA
Acting City Mayor



ISO 9001:2015
REGISTRATION NUMBER QAC/R63/0267
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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EMAIL: ionfontelera@gmail.com



CITY VICE MAYOR'S OFFICE

I. PROPONENT'S PROFILE

Title / Description:	Benchmarking Activity: Studying Sign Language and Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Policies and Programs in Bohol, Philippines
Schedule/Duration:	October 15 to 18, 2024 (travel time included)
Place/Venue:	Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Participants/ Persons Involved:	8 Sangguniang Panlungsod Members (including City Vice Mayor) 4 Support Staff 2 Representatives from Persons w/ Disabilities Affairs Office 2 Representatives from Alaminos City Schools Division Office ----- 16 Total Participants
Implementing Office:	Vice Mayor's Office Sangguniang Panlungsod Persons w/ Disabilities Affairs Office
Source of Funds:	GAD Fund

II. ACTIVITY PROFILE

1. **Activity Title: Studying Sign Language and Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Policies and Programs in Bohol, Philippines**

2. **Activity Background:**

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Alaminos City, Pangasinan, is committed to improving policies and programs on sign language and disability awareness. However, the deaf and hard of hearing community in Alaminos City faces significant challenges, such as communication barriers, a lack of sign language proficiency among the general population, limited sign language interpreters, insufficient educational opportunities, employment discrimination, social isolation, and unequal access to public services.

Bohol serves as a model for inclusive policies, offering comprehensive sign language programs, specialized education for deaf students, and initiatives by the Bohol Deaf Academy and the Deaf Boholanos Society. Bohol's public services, including healthcare and emergency services, are equipped to address the needs of deaf individuals. Business establishments in Bohol also employ deaf individuals, fostering inclusivity.

Alaminos City has around 2,000 persons with disabilities (PWDs), over 100 of whom are deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. The Sangguniang Panlungsod and the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO), aims to benchmark Bohol's initiatives to help address the needs of these constituents.

By benchmarking Bohol's initiatives in disability awareness and sensitivity, Alaminos City aims to understand best practices, identify adaptable strategies,



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and build the capacity of its personnel and stakeholders in developing and implementing effective policies and programs for its PWDs. As well, by localizing with RA 11106 or The Filipino Sign Language Act, Alaminos City hopes to take a critical step towards promoting an inclusive and supportive environment, empowering deaf individuals, and ensuring their full participation in society.

3. Activity Description:

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Alaminos City, Pangasinan, is undertaking a benchmarking visit to Tagbilaran City, Bohol to study its progressive initiatives on sign language and disability awareness and sensitivity. This activity aims to gather insights, best practices, and successful strategies to enhance Alaminos City's policies and programs, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for the deaf and hard of hearing community, as well as other differently abled groups, while also integrating GAD perspectives to foster a holistic inclusive environment. The visit will also look into the comparison of the American Sign Language (ASL) and on understanding the implementation and impact of the Filipino Sign Language (FSL) in various sectors, in line with Republic Act No. 11106.

4. Activity Purpose/ Objectives:

This benchmarking activity aims to provide the City Government of Alaminos with valuable insights into the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, as well as other differently-abled groups. Specifically, the objectives are:

1. Gain meaningful insights into Bohol's implementation of ASL/ FSL programs and GAD initiatives across education, public services, media, and workplaces.
2. Discover and identify strategies and programs that can be adapted and implemented in Alaminos City to improve inclusivity for the deaf and differently-abled communities and promote disability awareness and sensitivity, as well as gender sensitivity.
3. Enhance the capacity of Alaminos City's personnel and stakeholders to develop and implement effective policies and programs for the deaf and hard of hearing community, incorporating GAD principles.
These goals will ultimately foster a more inclusive and supportive environment in Alaminos City.

5. Expected Output/Accomplishments:

At the end of the benchmarking activity, it is expected that there is

- Documentation of Best Practices: A comprehensive report detailing the best practices observed in Bohol, with specific recommendations for Alaminos City.
- Policy Recommendations: Draft ordinance on sign language and policy recommendations for enhancing disability awareness and sensitivity in Alaminos City.
- Action Plan: An action plan outlining the steps for implementing the identified strategies and programs in Alaminos City.
- Strengthened Networks: Established connections and potential collaborations with organizations and stakeholders in Bohol for ongoing support and knowledge exchange.



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San Jose Drive, Poblacion, City of Alaminos, Pangasinan

IV. PROPOSED ITINERARY

Oct 15	Departure from Alaminos City
Oct 16 Morning	Day 1. Arrival and LGU Briefing Arrival in Tagbilaran City, Bohol Meet and Greet with Tagbilaran City officials Presentation on best practices on Disability Awareness and Sensitivity, Discussion and Q&A session
Afternoon	Visit Deped Division of City Schools – Tagbilaran City (or a school with a comprehensive ASL/ FSL program and DAS initiatives), observe classes, and interact with educators
Evening	Dinner & Fellowship
Oct 17 Morning	Day 2. Continuation of Benchmarking Visit IDEA Philippines and other relevant organizations to discuss best practices, challenges, and solutions in implementing ASL/ FSL and GAD programs
Lunch	Visit a business establishment incorporating ASL/ FSL and GAD in their services
Afternoon	Visit to Bohol Deaf Academy facilities, observe classes, and interact with educators
Oct 18 Morning	Day 3. Last Day of Benchmarking City Tour
Afternoon	Travel back to Alaminos City

V. PARTICIPANTS' LIST

SP Committee on Social Welfare & PWDs	1. Vice Mayor Jan Marianne R. Fontelera 2. Councilor Carolyn D. Sison, Chairperson 3. Councilor Verna S. D. Rabago, Vice Chairperson 4. Councilor Dahlia M. de Leon Councilor 5. Councilor Raul B. Bacay 6. Councilor Kelvin Theus O. Humilde 7. LBP Alex A. Recosana 8. PPSKP Loverly V. Bernabe
Support Staff	9. Jane O. Fontelera, GAD Focal Person 10. Marinela T. Solar, GAD Focal Person 11. Ciara D. Gaspar 12. Erwin Barao
CSWDO-PDAO	13. Karen Mae Basobas 14. Jilly M. Reyes
DepEd – Alaminos City Schools Division	15. Dr. Ely S. Ubaldo, CESO VI, OIC-Schools Division Superintendent 16. Joesilin Pol, Education Program Specialist II, Alaminos City Schools Division