



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

**Office of the Schools Division
Superintendent**

June 18, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 466, s. 2026

**PEOPLE LEADING ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNITIES
(P.L.A.S.T.I.CS) SOLUTIONS AND POLICY LAB**

To: Chief, CID and SGOD
All Public and Private Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is the letter from the Kabiling Lunhaw president inviting **four (4) student catalysts** and **one (1) teacher-mentor** from each public and private secondary school listed below to join the P.L.A.S.T.I.CS Solutions and Policy Lab project.

- Cogon National High School
- Manga National High School
- Mansasa National High School
- Tagbilaran City Science High School
- Dr. Cecilio Putong National High School-Junior High School
- Holy Name University
- Holy Spirit School of Tagbilaran
- Bohol Wisdom School
- BIT International College
- University of Bohol-Junior High School

2. This project is a youth-centered, school-community initiative that aims to equip the high school students and teacher-mentors with practical skills in environmental leadership, evidence-based policymaking, and community advocacy-specifically addressing plastic pollution in Tagbilaran City's public markets.

3. For more details, kindly see the attached Calendar of Activities and Project Information Sheet or contact the Division Office at 427-2506 or 427-1702 and look for Mrs. Joermelyne P. Pasilbas, the Division Youth Focal Person.

4. For information, action and dissemination.

WILFREDA D. BONGALOS PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

WDB/JAL/SGOD/MCC/jpp



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June 17, 2026

DR. WILFREDA D. BONGALOS, CESO V

Schools Division Superintendent
Schools Division of Tagbilaran City
Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Subject: Request for Comments and Approval on the Calendar of Activities for the P.L.A.S.T.I.C.S Solutions and Policy Lab

Dear Dr. Bongalos:

Warm greetings!

We respectfully seek your valued comments and approval on the proposed Calendar of Activities for the **P.L.A.S.T.I.C.S (People Leading Action and Sustainable Transformation in Communities) Solutions and Policy Lab**, a youth-centered, school–community initiative that aims to equip public high school students and teacher-mentors with practical skills in environmental leadership, evidence-based policymaking, and community advocacy—specifically addressing plastic pollution in Tagbilaran City’s public markets.

We are honored to share that this project was competitively selected from among numerous proposals across the region and will represent the Philippines as its official entry to the 2026 ASEAN–Japan Young Environmental Leaders Network (AJYELN) and that this initiative is supported through a grant from the **ASEAN-Japan Center**, ensuring that participation will be **free of charge** for all selected students and teachers. This support allows us to deliver structured capacity-building, field research, and policy engagement activities while maintaining strong safeguards for student welfare and academic integrity.

We propose to engage **four (4) student-catalysts and one (1) teacher-mentor per high school** as follows:

- **Cogon National High School**
- **Manga National High School**
- **Mansasa National High School**
- **Tagbilaran City Science High School**
- **Dr. Cecilio Putong National High School**
- **Holy Name University**
- **Holy Spirit School of Tagbilaran**
- **Bohol Wisdom School**
- **BIT International College**
- **University of Bohol**

Should your Office approve an increase in the number of participants, we are committed to mobilizing **external sponsors and partners** to cover the additional costs. This will allow us to maximize student participation and broaden the program’s reach and impact without imposing financial burden on the Schools Division.



Beyond your comments on the calendar, we would highly value your guidance on (a) alignment with DepEd policies and schedules, (b) recommended safeguards and protocols for off-campus activities, (c) opportunities for integrating outputs into school-based learning and advocacy, and (d) pathways for formal endorsement of student-developed policy recommendations to concerned committees. Your support will significantly strengthen the initiative's educational value, legitimacy, and sustainability.

For your reference, the proposed **Calendar of Activities** is as follows:

- **July 8–18, 2026** – Applications to be P.L.A.S.T.I.C.S Solutions and Policy Lab Fellows
- **July 25, 2026** – Announcement of Selected Individuals/Teams
- **July 31, 2026** – Deadline for Confirmation of Admission
- **August 1, 2026** – Creation of Messenger Group Chats (Teacher-Mentors; Student Catalysts; All Participants)
- **August 2–7, 2026** – Administration of Pre-Project Survey Questionnaire
- **August 22, 2026** – Awareness Building on Plastic Pollution
- **August 29, 2026** – Policy Dialogue with Lawmakers and Implementers
- **September 5, 2026** – Capacity-Building Workshop
- **September 6–20, 2026** – Market-Based Field Research
- **September 26, 2026** – Data Consolidation and Solution Design
- **October 3–24, 2026** – Pilot Testing of Solutions
- **October 31, 2026** – Results Sharing and Policy Ideation
- **November 9, 2026** – Endorsement of Recommended Policy to Concerned Committee
- **November 10–16, 2026** – Follow-up on Progress of Policy
- **November 16–28, 2026** – Advocacy Work in Schools and Markets
- **December 1–6, 2026** – Administration of Post-Project Survey Questionnaire
- **December 12, 2026** – External Closeout with All Stakeholders

Attached to this letter is the **Project Information Sheet**. We hope for your favorable consideration and constructive feedback on this proposal. Your leadership and approval will enable our young people and educators to contribute meaningfully to environmental solutions while strengthening civic engagement and policy literacy among public school learners.

Should you wish to discuss this project proposal in person, please do not hesitate to reach out to me using the contact details below.

Thank you very much for your time and continued support of youth development and public education in Tagbilaran City.

Respectfully yours,

JAIRUS ISMAEL L. CHIU, RN
Project Coordinator, Team Saulog
President, Kabiling Lunhaw
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PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

A. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION:

1. PROJECT NAME:	P.L.A.S.T.I.C.S (People Leading Action and Sustainable Transformation in Communities) Solutions and Policy Lab by Team Saulog
2. PROJECT SITE:	Tagbilaran City
3. DATE OF START:	08 July 2026
4. DATE OF END:	12 December 2026
5. TARGET PARTICIPANTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 student-catalysts - 5 teacher-mentors - 50 vendors and customers
6. SDG FOCUS:	SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13 Climate Action SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals
7. KEY CENTERS OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health 2. Education 3. Governance 4. Active Citizenship
8. IMPLEMENTERS:	The implementing organizations are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kabiling Lunhaw b. Holy Name University - Central Student Government - Students' Movement for Climate Action c. Bohol Island State University United Network for Green Advocacy
9. PROJECT COST:	PHP 38,000.00
10. REGISTRATION	Free of charge



B. BACKGROUND AND GOALS:

<p>1. RATIONALE:</p>	<p>Tagbilaran City is the coastal capital of Bohol, the Philippines' 10th largest island by land area, with a population of 106,120 (2024 census). As a gateway city to marine ecosystems, plastic pollution generated on land directly impacts coastal waters, fisheries, and livelihoods.</p> <p>Over the past decade, the city government has enacted progressive policies—City Ordinance C-223 (2012) and its amendment C-277 (2019)—to regulate single-use plastics (SUPs). These ordinances successfully banned SUPs for dry goods and polystyrene food containers, leading to widespread adoption of eco-bags, reusable containers, and paper packaging in groceries and retail establishments.</p> <p>However, significant gaps remain in addressing marine plastic pollution, particularly from wet markets. Current regulations allow single-use plastics as primary packaging for wet goods such as fish, meat, poultry, and vegetables. This definition is broad and unrestricted; wet markets are not treated as a distinct system, and there are no transition mechanisms or support programs to help vendors shift to viable alternatives. Enforcement focuses largely on penalties rather than system-wide change.</p> <p>As a result, wet markets remain a major source of plastic leakage. During the 2023 International Coastal Clean-up in Tagbilaran, 265 sacks (approximately 1,306 kg) of waste were collected, with the majority consisting of single-use plastics, wrappers, and food containers—items commonly associated with wet- goods transactions. These plastics often enter drainage systems and rivers, eventually reaching coastal and marine environments.</p> <p>Tagbilaran has four major wet markets located near five public high schools, creating an opportunity to mobilize students as partners in change. By equipping students with knowledge, research skills, and project management tools, they can work with vendors and consumers to co-design practical solutions and translate evidence into policy recommendations. Addressing this gap at the city level can reduce marine plastic</p>
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	waste locally while generating a scalable, youth-led model for other municipalities in Bohol and beyond.
2. OBJECTIVES:	<p>The proposed project establishes a Youth Plastic Policy Lab in Tagbilaran City to address marine plastic pollution originating from wet markets. While existing local ordinances have successfully reduced single-use plastics in dry goods, plastic packaging for wet goods such as fish, meat, and vegetables remains largely unregulated. This project positions public high school students as partners in research, co-creation, and policy development to close this gap through evidence-based and community-driven solutions.</p> <p>The project will begin with institutional coordination through courtesy calls to the city’s executive and legislative leadership, as well as to the Department of Education, to ensure alignment, safety, and official support. Five public high schools located near major wet markets will each form a team of three students and one teacher-mentor. These teams will undergo awareness-building sessions on the plastic crisis and its local marine impacts, followed by capacity-building workshops on research design, ethical interviewing, project management, and teamwork.</p> <p>Youth teams will then conduct supervised field research in their assigned wet markets, engaging vendors and customers to document plastic use, challenges, and openness to alternatives. To deepen understanding of governance realities, students will participate in a policy dialogue with local lawmakers and implementing agencies involved in plastic regulation. Research findings will be consolidated into a shared analysis, from which youth and community stakeholders will co-design practical, low-cost solutions tailored to wet-market operations.</p> <p>Selected solutions—such as reusable container systems, behavioral nudges, or vendor incentive mechanisms—will be pilot-tested in partner markets for one week. Results will be evaluated based on feasibility, acceptance, and potential for scale. The project will culminate in the drafting and formal submission of youth-led policy recommendations to the Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council) through the Committees on Environment and Climate Change.</p> <p>The project’s key objectives are to reduce plastic leakage from wet markets, empower youth as civic actors, and generate actionable policy inputs grounded in local realities. Its innovation lies in bridging education, community engagement,</p>



	<p>and policymaking, while its context-sensitive design ensures inclusivity, safety, and meaningful participation through teacher mentorship, ethical research practices, and collaboration with vendors and local government.</p>
<p>3. SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT:</p>	<p>This project aims to generate lasting community impact by addressing plastic pollution at one of its most persistent sources in Tagbilaran City: wet markets. By engaging public high school students, vendors, consumers, and policymakers in a shared process of learning, research, and action, the project strengthens environmental responsibility while fostering civic participation among youth. The expected outcome is not only reduced single-use plastic leakage into coastal and marine ecosystems, but also improved awareness, trust, and collaboration among community stakeholders, leading to sustained behavioral change across generations.</p> <p>Success will bring both direct and indirect benefits. Environmentally, it supports waste reduction and marine protection in a highly vulnerable coastal city. Socially, it empowers young people as co-creators of solutions rather than passive recipients of policies, while helping vendors transition toward more sustainable practices that are realistic and context-sensitive.</p> <p>Our motivations are deeply personal. As youth advocates, and Tagbilaranons and Boholanos, we have seen how environmental degradation, poor waste systems, and policy gaps affect health, livelihoods, and dignity. Our work has always been rooted in the belief that systems change is most effective when people— especially youth—are meaningfully involved.</p> <p>Rather than offering a one-time campaign, this project aims for long-term impact by embedding solutions into local policy and governance processes. Student-generated data and recommendations are formally endorsed by the city council, creating pathways for sustained implementation and replication in other municipalities.</p> <p>Education is central to the project: participants receive training on plastic pollution, research methods, project management, and policymaking. At the same time, the initiative builds networks among schools, markets, local government units, and civil society—strengthening a community of practice that can continue working toward a plastic-resilient future beyond the project timeline.</p>



<p>4. TARGET COMMUNITIES/ PARTNERS:</p>	<p>The project targets key groups that collectively shape daily consumption, waste generation, and policy implementation in Tagbilaran City: public high school students and teachers, wet market vendors and consumers, and local policymakers and implementing offices. These groups reflect the full ecosystem of the plastic pollution challenge and are essential to developing practical, inclusive, and sustainable solutions.</p> <p>Students and teachers are central because schools are spaces for learning, leadership formation, and long- term cultural change. Wet market vendors and consumers are prioritized as they are directly affected by existing plastic regulations and are major contributors to single-use plastic waste due to systemic constraints rather than choice. Policymakers and implementers are engaged to ensure that community- driven solutions are translated into enforceable and supportive policies.</p> <p>The project adopts a whole-of-community and collaborative approach. We plan to work closely with the Tagbilaran City Local Government Unit through the Sangguniang Panlungsod, the City Youth Development Office, the City Environmental Management Office, the City Economic Enterprise Office, and the Department of Education. Civil society partners such as Greenpeace Philippines, Plastic-Free Bohol, and Angat Generation Climate – Bohol Chapter will provide technical guidance, advocacy support, and environmental expertise.</p> <p>Expected outcomes include reduced leakage of single-use plastic from wet markets, improved awareness and stakeholder cooperation, and strengthened youth participation in local governance. Sustainability is ensured by anchoring project outputs in formal policy recommendations, capacity-building of youth leaders and teacher-mentors, and the creation of a replicable model that can be adopted by other communities in Bohol, the Philippines, and the wider ASEAN region.</p>
<p>5. INTENDED OUTPUT:</p>	<p>The project is designed to achieve realistic, measurable outcomes within the project period while laying the foundation for long-term impact. By the end of the project, participating youth, vendors, and policymakers will receive concrete outputs: evidence-based research on plastic use in wet markets, tested community- driven solutions, and formal policy recommendations submitted to the Sangguniang Panlungsod. Students gain practical skills in research, interviewing, project management, and civic engagement, while vendors and consumers benefit from solutions that are context-sensitive and supportive rather than punitive.</p>



	<p>The project intentionally brings people together across sectors that rarely collaborate in a structured way. Youth leaders, teacher-mentors, market vendors, consumers, and local government officials interact through dialogues, interviews, pilot testing, and policy presentations. This process strengthens trust, improves communication, and builds a shared understanding of the plastic problem as a systemic issue rather than an individual failure.</p> <p>Capacity-building is a core output. Youth participants are trained in environmental literacy, data gathering, analysis, and policy formulation, enabling them to translate community voices into actionable recommendations. Teacher-mentors and partners are likewise equipped with tools and frameworks that can be reused in future initiatives.</p> <p>The project also aims to inspire wider participation by demonstrating that youth-led, evidence-based approaches can influence policy and produce practical results. Visibility through presentations, documentation, and partnerships encourages other schools, communities, and local governments to adopt similar models.</p> <p>Sustainability is ensured by anchoring outcomes in institutional processes. Policy recommendations seek formal adoption, while trained youth leaders become long-term advocates for eco-friendly practices. By emphasizing collaboration, education, and system change, the project contributes to a future where environmental protection is sustained through shared responsibility and collective action.</p>
<p>6. SUCCESS MEASURES</p>	<p>The success of this project will be measured through clear quantitative and qualitative indicators reflecting learning, collaboration, and policy impact.</p> <p>At the activity level, success will be demonstrated by participation from at least 5 public high schools, 15 student leaders, and 5 teacher-mentors, and engagement with at least 50 market vendors and consumers across 5 wet markets. Attendance records, pre- and post-session surveys, and reflection outputs will assess learning outcomes, aiming for at least 85% of youth participants to report increased understanding of marine plastic pollution and community-based solutions.</p> <p>At the community level, success will be measured through the co-creation and pilot testing of at least three feasible, low-cost alternatives to single-use plastic packaging in wet markets.</p>



These solutions will be tested for one week with vendor participation. Feedback from vendors and consumers will be gathered through short interviews and observation logs to assess practicality, acceptance, and potential for scale-up.

At the governance level, a key indicator of success is the submission of a youth-led policy brief to the Sangguniang Panlungsod and documented engagement with committee chairs and implementers. Progress toward policy adoption—such as committee deliberations, resolutions, or draft ordinances—will be tracked beyond project completion. Equally important are stories of change. Case stories from student leaders, vendors, and teachers will highlight shifts in mindset, practice, and leadership, demonstrating how youth can facilitate system-level change.

Ultimately, success is defined not only by outputs but by strengthened relationships, shared ownership, and a replicable model for youth-driven, policy-informed environmental action.