

“Protection against attacks on education”

Promoting Learning Institutions as Zones of Peace (LIZoP)



**Regional Consultation Meeting on Education and Resilience in
East Asia and the Pacific: Programmes and Policies that Promote
Social Cohesion and Comprehensive School Safety**

4-7 November 2014

Pearl Hall, SEAMEO INNOTECH, Quezon City, Philippines



Read more <http://www.mindanews.com> **News Regions**

15 BIFF hostages released; students, teachers trapped in Midsayap schools

September 23, 2013 3:19pm

Other threats to students and teachers

- Use of schools as military posts
- Bombardment of schools
- 'Rido' – clan feuds
- Presence of armed groups
- Terroristic criminal groups
- Recruitment of child soldiers
- Corruption-related violence
- Election-related violence



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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **Regional Secretary, ARMM**
All Regional Directors
All Schools Division Superintendents
All District Supervisors
All School Heads

FROM : **MARIO A. DERIQUITO**
Undersecretary for Partnerships and External Linkages

SUBJECT : **FOR IMMEDIATE DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:**
"This School Is A Zone Of Peace" Banner in ALL DepEd
Schools, Regional, Division and District Offices Nationwide

Date : **September 30, 2013**

We are issuing this memorandum pursuant to the decision made during the National Management Committee meeting held in Puerto Princesa City last September 23, 2013.

For several years now, there have been conflicts between and among groups in communities around our schools which have led to hostilities and violence.

There have been many cases when our schools were used as hiding places and even as battlefields, and our personnel, teachers, students and pupils were caught in the crossfire. We have had cases of teachers and children taken hostage, resulting in injury or even death, and emotional and psychological trauma. Many of our school infrastructures, including property and equipment, have been badly damaged by such hostilities.

While we are now in the process of providing assistance to our students, teachers and personnel and even the communities around our schools affected by the most recent events in Zamboanga City and Midsayap, Cotabato, we would like to take a more proactive stance on this matter by appealing to all parties involved in the conflicts to consider our public schools as neutral grounds or peace zones and must not be used as battlegrounds or as targets of violence. Neither should our teachers, personnel and students be treated as targets nor used as human shields by anyone.

We enjoin our schools in areas with armed conflict and/or peace and order problems to put up a banner at a prominent location outside the school, preferably near the gate bearing this message:

THIS SCHOOL IS A ZONE OF PEACE
Huwag po kaming idamay sa anumang kaguluhan.

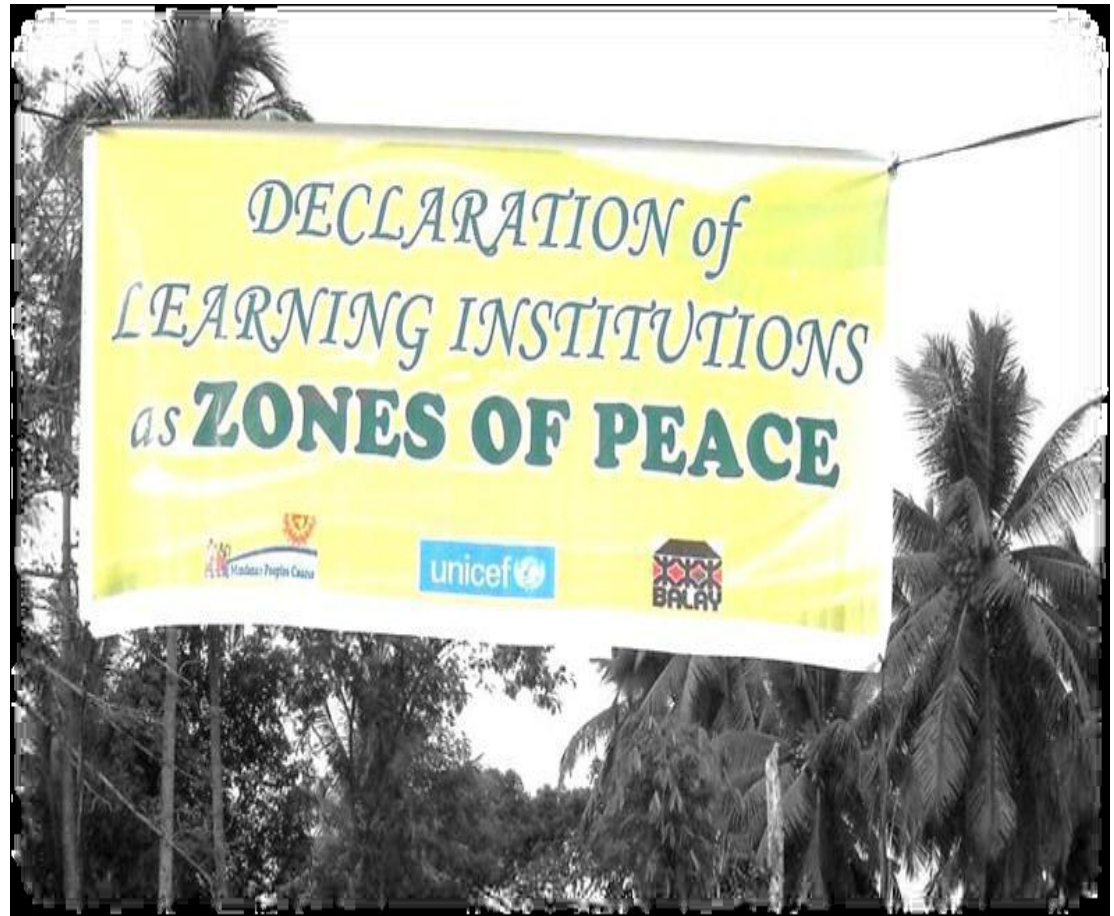


- Department of Education (DepEd) Order No. 44 series of 2005 "Declaring Schools as Zones of Peace"

"..[I]t shall be the role of the state and every sector concerned to resolve armed conflict and protect children" (RA9610, 1992)

The Unicef-assisted
LIZOP Project proposes to
model the effectiveness of
a community declaration
of all learning institutions
as zones of peace, and
establishing a multi-
stakeholder mechanism to
sustain it.

2012-2014



LIZOP Project Sites 2012-2014

Mindanao



Three communities in the municipality of Midsayap, North Cotabato (second project)

Eight communities in the municipalities of Upi, Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Mangudadato (first project)

Three communities in the municipalities of Upi (second project)



It takes a whole village
to raise a child.

African Proverb
<Akan>



Multi-stakeholder Decision and Commitment: Consensus building in Tina, Shariff Aguak to discuss the establishment of LIZOP in their community



Consultation and seeking support of non-state actors in peace process
(members of MILF Peace Panel, local base commanders, and BIFF fighters)



Community participation and mobilization:

Villagers agree on the principles and provisions of the LIZOP Declaration in Brgy. Tinungkaan, Upi (left) and in Brgy. Liong in Datu Piang municipality (right)



Children and parents consultation: Focus group discussion with parents of pupils held at Shariff Aguak .



Setting up of peace building and protection mechanism: Community dialogue held in Mangudadatu participated by residents coming from different sectors, including children and women.

Framing the 'Code of Conduct' for actors in peace-building



The symbolic signing of the LIZOP declaration during the declaration ceremony. Municipal police authorities also joined the signing.



***Public Declaration:** The declaration ceremony of LIZOPs of Bgy. Tinungkaan and Ganasi of Upi at the municipal gym of Upi. The ceremony was participated by the municipal mayor and his officials, military, police, teachers, representatives from barangay LGU and other community stakeholders.*



Psychosocial activities: Liong Elementary School pupils gather for therapeutic play and art activities



Provision of material support:

A parent paints a chair in Liong elementary School (left). Children enjoy their new tables in Tina Elementary School (right)



Repair of school house: The Mangudadatu National High School before the repair and after the repair



Reopening of Liong Elementary School, Datu Piang Municipality

LIZoP Highlights

- Around 20 schools, also madaris and day care centers. in 12 communities
- Around 4,000 children and 70 teachers benefitted from the project
- Three learning institutions were reopened
- Trained local volunteers monitor security situation and report threats to peace and order
- Community-based peace building mechanisms were established
- Parents showed greater interest for the education of their children
- Community mobilization inspired humanitarian agencies to provide support



Ten-year-old Zamir Bido with his friends: Looking forward to a shorter and safer walk to Tina Elementary School in Shariff Aguak municipality

PEACE
NOW

