



February 10, 2019

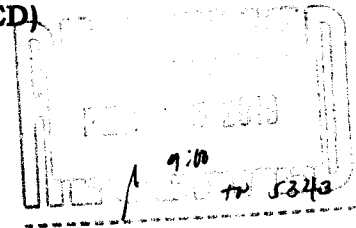
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**REGIONAL ORDER**

No. 001 s. 2019

**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES OF THE "NO PLASTIC, NO STYRO"  
POLICY DURING TRAININGS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS,  
PROGRAMS AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITES OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED)**

To: Assistant Regional Director  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Chiefs, Functional Divisions  
Heads, Regional Functional Units



1. The Department of Education (DepEd) Regional Office 1 issues the enclosed Implementing Guidelines of the "No Plastic, No Styro" Policy during trainings, seminars, workshops, programs and other related DepEd activities.

2. This Policy aims to institutionalize waste minimization measures and promote the avoidance of single use disposable products and packaging materials (such as plastic bags, straws, spoons, forks and styro cups and plates) during trainings, seminars, workshops, and other related DepEd activities.

3. This Policy and its implementing guidelines shall be effective immediately upon issuance and shall remain in enforce and in effect until revoked.

4. All Regional Orders/ Memoranda, and other related issuances, provisions, rules and regulations, which are inconsistent with these guidelines are hereby replaced, repealed, or amended accordingly.

5. Immediate dissemination and strict compliance with this policy and its implementing guidelines is directed.

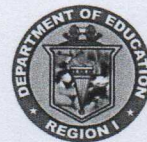
**MALCOLM S. GARMA**  
Regional Director

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**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES OF THE “NO PLASTIC, NO STYRO”  
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED)**

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Section 1. Statement of Policy**

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution explicitly provides, “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”. The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act 9003- An Act providing for an Ecological Solid Waste Management Program, creating the necessary Institutional Mechanisms and Incentives, declaring Certain Acts prohibited and providing penalties, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000" was thus signed and enacted into law. Part VI, Rule XXI, Section 2 of the IRR of RA 9003 specifically provides that the Department of Education (DepEd) shall aggressively incorporate ecological waste management in the school systems at all levels, emphasizing the involvement of the school administrators, teaching and non-teaching staff, and students in school-wide and nearby community waste management actions.

Pursuant to this mandate , the Department of Education issued Dep Ed Order No. 5, s. 2014 entitled “Implementing Guidelines on the Integration of Gulayan sa Paaralan, Solid Waste Management, and Tree Planting under the National Greening Program (NGP)”. Under Section 2 of the said DepEd Order, declares for institutionalized waste minimization measures and promotes on the avoidance of the use of single-use disposable products and packaging materials such as plastic bags, straws, spoons, forks, and other disposable laminated paper cups and plates.

As observed during the conduct of different DepEd activities such as programs, trainings and seminars, the use of dining utensils/tablewares made of plastic and styrofoam materials is still being practiced. Plastic and styrofoam materials are detrimental to health and environment. Styrene (a component of polystyrene or popularly known as styrofoam) is a harmful chemical that can leech into food and drink while plastic greatly contribute to the degradation of the environment. When not properly disposed of, they clog the waterways and cause flooding.



The Department of Education (DepEd) Regional Office 1 is mindful of its role to protect the environment and to ensure the welfare of learners, teachers, and non-teaching personnel. Further, it takes the lead in the implementation of the curriculum by promoting environmental awareness through the enhancement of environmental education and pursuance of activities in schools that nurture the environment.

Therefore, there is a need to prescribe the guidelines and policies to be strictly followed during the conduct of trainings, seminars, and other related activities in DepEd Region 1.

## Section 2. References

*1987 Philippine Constitution*

*Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001*

*DepEd Order No. 5, s. 2014 or Ecological Waste Management*

## Section 3. Definition of Terms

**Other Related DepEd Activities** refer to a DepEd undertakings that develop an individual's skills, knowledge, expertise and other characteristics with specific schedule and resource assignment that require the allocation of funds for meals and snacks.

**Reusable Food Servicewares** are made of metal, glass, paper, ceramic, bamboo, and the like and those made of recycled content, recyclable or bio-based/compostable cups or bottles.

**Single use plastic disposable products** are plastic cutleries readily disposed which include straws, spoons, forks, coffee stirrers, cups and plastic plates.

**Styrofoam** or Polystyrene Foam Container is a petroleum based plastic container used as food containers normally for take-outs, coffee, beverage, noodle cups, and plates.



## II. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES

### **Section 4. Rules and regulations to be followed by DepEd employees.**

1. Seminars, Trainings, Workshops, Programs and other related DepEd activities conducted within or outside the school premises, division, and regional offices shall adhere to the “No Plastic, No Styro” Policy.
2. The use of Styrofoam or polystyrene foam container and single use plastic disposal products shall be strictly prohibited to avoid detrimental effects to the environment and to the health of DepEd personnel as consumers.
3. The “No Plastic, No Styro” Policy shall be indicated in the technical specifications for meals in the conduct of DepEd activities which require procurement process.
4. The recommended alternative food containers replacing the styrofoam as food containers are reusable food servicewares made of metal, paper, ceramic, and bamboo. For beverage wares, the service provider/ food caterer/ winning bidder must use servicewares made of glass, and those made of recycled content, recyclable or bio-based/compostable cups or bottles. For the utensils, the same must be made of stainless steels/ metals.
5. During events and meetings, the consumption of bottled water, and 3-in-1 coffee in plastic/ foil sachets, should be avoided. Refillable dispensers/ water and coffee boiler should be used instead.
6. Take-out food shall be placed in paper-based, or reusable/ recyclable plastic containers.
7. Winning bidders/ Food caterers/ service providers are required to use more environment-friendly containers as a substitute for banned plastic and Styrofoam materials.
8. Failure to adhere to this policy shall be a ground for disqualification of service providers/food caterers on future trainings, seminars and the like which require procurement.
9. DepEd Officials who with knowledge and consent, permitted or tolerated the use of prohibited plastic/styro shall be warned for first offense, and shall be sanctioned administratively for second offense for violation of office’s policy.



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### III. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### **Section 5. Separability Clause**

Any part of this Regional Memorandum which may be held invalid or unconstitutional shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions.

#### **Section 6. Repealing Clause**

All prior Regional Orders/memoranda, other issuances, or provisions, which are inconsistent with this policy and implementing guidelines are hereby repealed, revised, or modified accordingly.

#### **Section 7. Effectivity**

This Regional Memorandum shall take effect immediately upon issuance.