ADOPTING A POLICY ON CENTRALIZED ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANCELLATION OF CLASSES IN METRO MANILA DUE TO TYPHOONS

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WHEREAS, last August 07, 2007, when typhoon "Chedeng" entered the Philippine area of responsibility, countless school children were caught in the middle of heavy rains and flood due to the late announcement of suspension of classes and the miscommunication among various agencies regarding the "localized suspension of classes";

WHEREAS, on the same month, typhoons "Dodong and Egay" hit the Philippine area of responsibility and although the suspension of classes on all levels in Metro Manila was announced early, it was observed that there are some parts of Metro Manila that did not experience heavy rains but had fair weather instead.

WHEREAS, Mandaluyong City Mayor. Hon. Benjamin C. Abalos, Jr thru his duly authorized representative Mr. Jimmy Isidro. strongly recommended to the Metro Manila Council the adoption of a policy on centralized announcement of cancellation of classes in Manila to establish a system of smooth coordination among the Local Government Units (LGUs), Department of Education (DepEd) and various media network and likewise avoid suspending classes in areas not affected by heavy rains and flood.

WHEREAS, the Metro Manila Council in session duly assembled, after due deliberation, recognized the need to adopt a policy on centralized announcement of suspension of classes in Metro Manila to avoid late announcement, waste of time, money and effort thereby affecting the productivity of every pupii/student.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved by the Metro Manila Council, pursuant to Section 6 of RA 7924, that the Council hereby adopts a policy on centralized announcement on the suspension of classes in Metro Manila due to typhoons which include the following:

1. In the absence of typhoon signal warnings from PAG-ASA, the City Mayors shall imme diately assess the situation in their respective jurisdiction, conduct consultations and make decision whether there are valid grounds for the timely cancellation of classes. The authority to CANCEL OR HOLD CLASSES still lies in the hands of Mayors. However, DepEd should be notified immediately about the decision not later than 4:30 AM.

2. By 4:30 AM, all local advisories from LGUs of Metro Manila must have been submitted to DepEd and the duly designated DepEd official shall be ready to announce the consolidated advisories from the LGUs. It shall be ready to announce the consolidated advisories from the LGUs. It shall be the designated DepEd official who shall be responsible in making the announcements using all existing radio, television and newspaper network. All press and media network shall be properly advised of this arrangements;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the aforesaid policy should not prejudice individual Mayors from making their own announcement, with the condition that DepEd must be duly notified first not later than 4:30 AM;

Let copies of this Resolution be provided to the Metro Manila LGUs, DepEd, various media network and other concerned government offices.

Adopted: 24 Aug. 2007

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