



CRHRDC

CORDILLERA HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

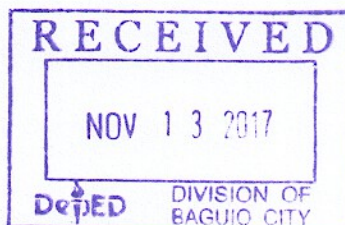
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November 10, 2017

FEDERICO P. MARTIN, Ed.D., CESO IV

Schools Division Superintendent

Schools Division Office of Baguio City

82 Military Cutoff Road, Baguio City

Dear **Supt. Martin,**

The **Cordillera Regional Health Research and Development Consortium (CRHRDC)** will be conducting a **Public Symposium on Teenage Pregnancies** on **November 17, 2017 (1:00 PM – 5:00 PM)** at the **PE Function Hall, University of the Cordilleras (UC)**, Gov. Pack Road, Baguio City, with the theme: **"#Life goals kayang abutin kung iwag buntis sa murang edad."** This is primarily to support the national government address the high incidence of teenage pregnancy in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

According to the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study, CAR has the highest teen fertility rate nationwide at 18.4 percent, higher than the national incidence of 13.6 percent. The Philippine Statistics Authority also reported that 28.5 percent of women aged 15-24 years old have begun childbearing. Worse, teenage pregnancies are getting younger than the women age 15-19 years old, as they are now occurring among girls aged 10-14 years. With their young age, they are supposed to be in school-- learning and earning their basic education.

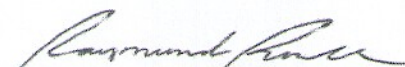
Relative to this, may we partner with you with regards to the conduct of the Public Symposium by assisting us in the following areas:

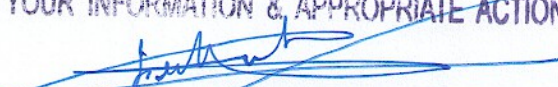
1. Extend invitation to **9 senior high schools** located in the Baguio City area. We would like to get about 45 participants from these schools with a breakdown of 1 guidance counsellor/adviser and 4 students per school.

We have designated our secretariat, **Mr. Jake Olsim**, to coordinate with you about the event. For clarifications, his contact details are: 09480777825 (mobile), 422-2214 (landline), and crhrdcar@gmail.com (email address). Attached is the program of activities, for your reference.

Thank you very much and we look forward to your positive response to our requests.

Sincerely yours,


RAYMUNDO D. ROVILLOS, Ph.D
 Chair, CRHRDC & Chancellor,
 University of the Philippines

To: All School Administrators, Principals & Teachers In-Charge
 (Elementary & Secondary)
 FOR YOUR INFORMATION & APPROPRIATE ACTION

FEDERICO P. MARTIN, Ed.D., CESO VI
 Schools Division Superintendent



**PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY:
ADOLESCENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY**
University of the Cordilleras, Gov. Pack Road, Baguio City
November 17, 2017

Theme: *"#Life goals kayang abutin kung iwas buntis sa murang edad"*

I. RATIONALE:

Teenage pregnancy in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) is a cause for concern as early pregnancy brings with it not only health problems for young mothers but also to their child.

According to the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study 2013 (YAFS 4) released in 2016, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) has the highest teen fertility rate nationwide at 18.4 percent, even higher than the national incidence of 13.6 percent. The 2013 NDHS also showed that 28.5 percent of women age 15-24 have begun childbearing which is higher than the 25.9 percent recorded in 2008.

Although the DOH –CAR has reported the decrease of teenage pregnancies by 29 percent from 4,069 in 2014 to 2,054 in 2016, it is alarming to note that the prevalence of pre-marital sex has been steadily increasing and there remains a very low percentage of teenagers who used protection against pregnancy during the first marital sex.

DOH-CAR during the STI/HIV consultative meeting on September 28-29, 2017 has reported that the age group with the biggest proportion of cases has become younger. As quoted from the report:

"The age group with the biggest proportion of cases has become younger: between 2001 to 2005, it was 35-49 years; starting from 2006, the age proportion shifted to 25-34 years. The proportion of HIV positive cases in the 15-24-year age group increased from 25% in 2006-2010 to 29% in 2011-2017. Meanwhile, the absolute number of cases among females has also been increasing. Cases of HIV transmission from mother-to-child are more likely to increase if female patients are not linked to HIV care. Ninety-two percent (2,859) of all female cases were diagnosed when they were between 15-49 years of age."

In another related report, the Population Institute of the University of the Philippines reported same observation through DZMM Teleradyo (broadcast last October 15, 2017) that teenage pregnancies are getting younger than the women age 15-19 years old, as they are now occurring among girls aged 10-14 years old.

With their **young age, they are supposed to be in school, learning and earning their basic education.** Further, teenage mothers are exposed to different risks that are likely to affect their health (apart from HIV/STI). Among the risks include smoking, drinking, drug use, diet, suicidal ideation and attempt, experience of physical violence, and early school leaving.

It is therefore important to delay the beginning of childbearing as this contributes to fertility decline and subsequently to their quality as potential human resources in the economy.

It is for this reason that the public symposium will be conducted with the intent of the Cordillera Regional Health Research and Development Consortium (CRHRDC) contributing to the attainment of demographic dividend¹ by addressing the development issue on teenage pregnancies in the region. One form could be in the presentation of research studies; the other form, to trigger discussions leading to the formulation and preparation of research proposals for public policy. The teenage pregnancy as a thematic research area is one of the priorities of CRHRDC embodied in the CRHRDC Regional Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA).

II. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES:

While the goal of the symposium is to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancies, its primary objective is to increase the level of awareness on teenage pregnancies by expanding the dissemination and advocacy to broad-based stakeholders.

More specifically, it aims to undertake the following 3Es strategies:

1. To elucidate the participants by updating and informing them on the current situation with statistics and the availability of programs and projects various agencies implement;
2. To educate them by instilling the values of responsible adolescents and parenthood, among others; and
3. To empower them by asking them of their aspirations, decisions and commitment in contributing to the attainment of their goals.

III. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES(tentative)

TIME	ACTIVITIES	PERSONS IN-CHARGE
Afternoon Session		
12:30 - 1:30	Registration	Amy and Virgie
1:30 - 2:00	Opening Preliminaries : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invocation • Singing of "Bayan Ko" • Acknowledgement of Participants • Key Messages • Overview of the activity AVPs on AmBisyon Natin 2040 and	