

STATE OF THE YOUTH ADDRESS
YOUTHSPEAK
"YOUTH VOICE MATTERS"

DepEd BAGUIO CITY
JUL 04 2019
RECEIVED



Supt. Federico P. Martin ED.D.,C.ED.D.,CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Baguio City

Dear Supt. Martin:

Greetings of Solidarity!

The year marks Rodrigo Duterte's third State of the Nation Address (SONA), reaching the end of the 1st half of his administration. Three years into his term, we have seen different policies in their full implementation – from the TRAIN Law to Oplan Tokhang, the widespread and rampant killings, to the removal of Filipino language and literature college curriculum, to Free Education in SUCs, to the strengthening and forging unities with the US and China. As he delivers his message to the Filipino people, the youth shall not remain silent and must take their role as citizens.

State of the Youth Address (SOYA) is an annual gathering of the youth in Baguio-Benguet as a venue to voice out their views and issues on the current state of the country, with emphasis on how it affects their sector. With over 20 million votes of the 2019 national elections coming from the youth, they have an integral role in nation-building. Being dubbed as the *Pag-asa ng Bayan* (Hope of the Nation), there is a responsibility to be socially aware and involved in the plight of the Filipino masses.

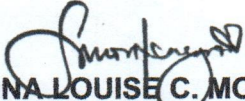
This year, aside from the different youth organizations, SOYA will carry voices across the sectors. Special guests from the congress, national and local politicians, together with leaders from the youth, schools, church, community, artists, indigenous peoples, and workers will be hosted to speak in the forum. The event is organized by the Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC), College Editors Guild of the Philippines – Cordillera (CEGP-Cordi), National Union of the Students of the Philippines Cordillera (NUSP-Cordi), Rise for Education Alliance Baguio-Benguet (R4E-BB), Progressive Igorots for Social Action (PIGSA), and Kabataan Partylist Cordillera (KPL-Cordi).


Titled **YouthSpeak: Youth Voice Matters**, SOYA 2019 will be held in Baguio City, on **July 21, 2019** from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Attached is the tentative program for the event.

In this light, we request the **endorsement of your office** to encourage students to participate in this significant event. We believe that the students – being part of the youth sector – have a significant role in nation-building and the creation of a better future for the Filipino people.

Attached is the tentative program for this year's State of the Youth Address. For **inquiries** you may contact the secretariat. We are looking forward for your attendance and active participation. Thank you and more power!

For the youth and the peoples' welfare,


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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

STATE OF THE YOUTH ADDRESS **YOUTH SPEAK** "YOUTH VOICE MATTERS"

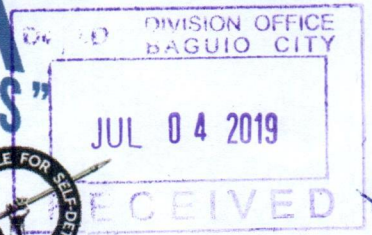


YouthSpeak: Youth Voice Matters
July 21, 2019 | Baguio City
State of the Youth Address 2019

Tentative Program

08:00 am - 09:00 am	Registration
09:00 am - 09:15 am	Opening Prayer and National Anthem
09:15 am - 09:25 am	Rationale
09:25 am - 09:30 am	Opening Cultural Performance
09:30 am - 10:30 am	National Youth Situation Deanna Louise Montenegro <i>National Union of Students of the Philippines Cordillera Spokesperson</i>
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Cordillera Youth Situation Richard Gabaen <i>National Union of Students of the Philippines St. Louis University Spokesperson</i>
11:30 am - 12:00 nn	Open Forum
12:00 nn - 01:00 pm	Lunch
01:00 pm - 01:40 pm	Manifestations from Different Sectors
01:40 pm - 01:50 pm	Cultural Performance
01:50 pm - 02:30 pm	Manifestations from Different Sectors (continuation)
02:30 pm - 03:30 pm	Plenary Session and Presentation
03:30 pm - 04:30 pm	Youth Covenant Manifestation and Signing
04:30 pm - 05:00 pm	Closing Remarks

STATE OF THE YOUTH ADDRESS YOUTH SPEAK "YOUTH VOICE MATTERS"



YouthSpeak Youth Voice Matters: On Education, Environment, and the Nation

Rationale

The year 2019 marks Rodrigo Duterte's third State of the Nation Address (SONA), reaching the end of the 1st half of his administration. With the onset of his policies, much controversy has revolved around the rampant killings taking place during his term.

Our Nation

In March 2019, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that an estimated 27,000 people had been killed. The police deny this figure but do admit to killing more than 6,600 people. The condition of human rights in the Philippines has reached an all time low. Citizens no longer feel safe in the streets, with the continuous silencing of the administration's critics, activists, farmers, lawyers, the media, and the church as his main targets – even children and elderly have been slain.

Amidst the death toll, Duterte pronounces selling the country to China while they fund development projects like dams. Aside from countries like the US, Japan, Korea which we are indebted through programs like the Build, Build, Build, the president has been eyeing China as a major "global partner."

Our City

Baguio City, along with provinces around Cordillera, suffers the same fate as the country. It is a manifestation of how the absence of an environmentally sound masterplan can lead to urban decay. While there is continuous demand for environmental justice, the City Government presents progress in the form of tree-cutting, excessive mining in key locations, and destructive infrastructure development around the city. Structures built within Baguio continue to serve tourism and private corporations.

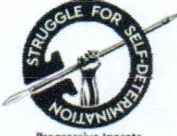
Our Youth

The national and local state reflect our youth's education. While our country and our city are unsafe and being sold to outsiders for profit, education suffers the same fate.

Mandatory ROTC in Senior High Schools is a bill that is swiftly being passed into a law, and has become an issue due to disallowing young students the right to choose the program and the cases of human rights violations in its college implementation. While proponents of the bill aim to instill nationalism, our own national language is threatened to be removed from college curriculum. Filipino and Panitikan are subjects that CHED removes as a core college subject under its memorandum 20 series of 2013. In 2019, its implementation will be and has already been seen in a few colleges across the country.

While the identity of our education as quality, nationalist, and safe peace zones are being threatened, its accessibility is struggled for. Private schools continue to skyrocket tuition and other school fees, remain deregulated, and lack proper consultation with its constituents. In public schools, the implementation of free tuition is still being monitored as several colleges report fee collection and continued inaccessibility within schools.

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Despite this, the championing of UAQTE in 2017 is a success of the youth continually struggling and asserting their right to education. The youth's voice was heard through years of struggle. Similarly, it is the youth - future leaders of the nation - that will shed light into the darkness.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) declares 2019 as **the Year of the Youth**, and sees the youth as active participants on their community and society. Therefore, their involvement in the wider scale of things is unquestionable. It is in the age of technology that we assert our relevance when the youth, tagged as millennials, are viewed as shallow and narcissistic. *The youth is the voice of hope for the future.*

State of the Youth Address (SOYA) is an annual gathering of the youth in Baguio-Benguet as a venue to voice out their views and issues on the current state of the country, with emphasis on how it affects their sector. It is held at the same time the president hosts the SONA.

This year's SOYA gives prime that in times of worsening crisis in our city and our country, it is through **accessible and quality education and strengthening the role of the youth** that we find hope.

Event Organizers:

National Union of Students of the Philippines

- The National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) is the widest alliance of student councils and leaders across the country, advancing students' democratic rights and welfare. The union molds student leaders to serve the youth and Filipino people, and has over 650 member student councils nationwide.

College Editors Guild of the Philippines

- The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) is the oldest and broadest intercollegiate alliance of student publications in the Asia-Pacific, pushing for students' democratic rights and safeguarding press freedom and the freedom of expression.

Kabataan Partylist

- Kabataan Partylist (KPL) is the voice of the youth and students in the congress. Throughout its seat, it has forwarded bills and legislations that uphold the interests of the youth. It is the main proponent of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act in State Universities and Colleges.

Cordilleran Youth Center

- The Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC) is a service and advocacy centre aimed at empowering Cordilleran youth and children, advancing people's rights and welfare with other democratic sectors and youth organizations.

Progressive Igorots for Social Action

- Progressive Igorots for Social Action (PIGSA) is an organization of indigenous youth in defense of land, life and resources.

Rise for Education

- Rise for Education (R4E) is an alliance of different student councils and publications from high schools and universities, youth organizations, members of the academe, parents, out-of-school youths and citizens calling for quality education that is free and accessible to all.