



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region XII
Division of Sarangani
Alabel



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DepEd-Sarangani welcomes Plan International **Reaching-out Sarangan Children through Strengthening Partnership**



Plan International Country Director Carin van der Hor, together with these tri-people children, smile with great joy after signing a Pledge of Commitment for the kick-off of REACH Mindanao project, wherein Sarangani Division is a recipient. Carin wants to highlight the importance of children as beneficiaries of their project.

Photo by: Allan Shane J. Cawag, Division Information Officer

Alabel, Sarangani - It's another milestone blessing that comes to DepEd-Sarangani as Plan International opens partnership to promote Sarangan education through its REACH Mindanao project, which launched on September 11, 2013 at the East Asia Royale Hotel, General Santos City.

The "Resilience and Change for Children and Families in Mindanao (REACH Mindanao) is a 2-year project currently Plan International is implementing in the provinces of Sarangani and Maguindanao. This aims to ensure that children from the



*"Ang batang Sarangan, dapat nasa paaralan."
Learning is fun in Sarangani!*

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covered communities of the mentioned areas are able to access their health and protection rights through the (local) delivery and management of services.

For the education component, it will be focused on the Alternative Delivery Mode. In Sarangani, seventeen of its schools are the recipients of Plan International program. Initially identified schools (subject for finality) are: New Canaan IS, Datal Anggas IS, Tabotong ES, Green Valley ES, Bongo IS, Batian ES, Tuanadatu ES, Virginia Tanedo ES, Daan Suyan IS, M. Upper Suyan ES, Kinam ES, Gulo ES, San Jose ES, Lumigo IS, Lanao Kapanglao IS, Miasong ES, and Kaltuad ES.

Plan International Country Director Carin van der Hor emphasized that the project would help uplifting the lives of Filipino children by letting them acquire the necessary life skills and developed their full potentials. She added that the word REACH is a child-centered one.

A significant Pledge of Commitment signing was done by the participants to express one's support to the program. It is followed by a role play/drama by talented invited children that represent the Bisayans, Maguindanaoans, and Manobos and portray their advocacy to promote children's rights and responsibilities, especially against bullying.

Meanwhile, Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Isagani S. dela Cruz invited everyone to join hands in providing relevant education to school children and give them a chance to live with dignity. He also mentioned the establishment of "convergence" among partners/stakeholders to support the advocacy in educating the children (particularly the Sarangans), by providing the necessary services they need, such, is to have full access of learning facilities.

SDS dela Cruz expressed his heartfelt-warm gratitude to the continuing support the local government units, non-government organizations, and private groups extended to the Division of Sarangani. Despite with the socio-economic standing of Sarangani as one of the poorest provinces in the country, its educational status earns creditable citations not just as Region XII's premiere, but also as one of the country's finest divisions.

A Start-Up workshop will be held for two days following the launching which will equip the participants in delivering the expectations of the implementation and success of the project.

Among the key participants of the program launching were Carin van der Hor (Plan International Country Director), Malte Stovring (Humanitarian Coordinator-Sweden National Office), Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon (Sarangani), and Mayor George Perrett (Maitum). On the other hand, SDS Isagani S. dela Cruz, OIC-Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Ruth L. Estacio, and ADM Coordinator Meilani Libre, were the delegates of DepEd-Sarangani.