

## EMPOWERING EDUCATORS: INSIGHTS FROM MAKAGURONG UGNAYANG PANG-EDUKASYON

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Months have passed, but the events of last September remain vivid.

On September 25, 2024, the higher-ups of the Schools Division Office of Bataan, led by Dr. Carolina S. Violeta, Schools Division Superintendent, visited the teaching personnel of the Samal District through the Makagurong Ugnayang Pang-Edukasyon program, held at the Samal Municipal Hall Conference.

This activity aimed to raise awareness, advocate for, and provide support regarding issues, trends, policies, and initiatives affecting SDO Bataan's educational goals and directions. It also served as a platform to present and discuss the Division Education Development Plan (DEDP), which is anchored in strategic foresight, while facilitating networking, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among participants.

This kind of initiative from the SDO serves as a strategic blueprint for long-term progress and will boost teachers' morale.

During this event, key officials of the SDO provided updates and presented plans for the division. However, the highlight was the Question-and-Answer Session, where teachers discreetly wrote down their questions and concerns on pieces of paper before the program started, and these were later addressed by the officials toward the end of the session.

Such dialogues are crucial in any organization, particularly in the field of education, as they foster open communication, collaboration, and mutual understanding.

According to an article published on the Philippine Star news website by Dominique Nicole Flores, among 263 Filipino respondents in the 2025 Employee Sentiment Study conducted by the global professional services firm Aon, 70% expect employers to prioritize employee well-being. To achieve this, an open dialogue like this will be beneficial.

Hence, this program, introduced by the SDO, may help teachers feel seen, heard, and valued. It serves as a great avenue for supporting the well-being of teachers not only in Samal but throughout the entire division.

Furthermore, the key officials assured the participants that all matters discussed would be taken into account and kept confidential.

The Makagurong Ugnayang Pang-Edukasyon ultimately plays a vital role in shaping the future of education in Bataan. It benefits not only learners and educators but also the broader community by ensuring that education remains dynamic, responsive, and inclusive. Through continuous dialogue and collaboration, this initiative paves the way for sustainable progress and educational excellence.

#### *References:*

Division Memorandum No. 331, s. 2024. Makagurong Ugnayang Pang-Edukasyon.

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