



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region V (Bicol)
Schools Division of Catanduanes
Virac North District
VIRAC PILOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Virac, Catanduanes

WINNING BRIGADE: Virac Pilot ES Brigada Eskwela Success Story

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Winning is not everything, but the effort to win is.

Generating a total of Php5,120,636.50 worth of material resources, scope of work, other donations, and man-power volunteers for physical maintenance and clean-up drives, Virac Pilot Elementary School (VPES) was hailed Brigada Eskwela Best Implementing School (Mega School Category) in the Bicol Region, March 16, 2022 at Malilipot, Albay.

Winning the Brigada Eskwela Best Implementing School award is not that easy. I realized that we really need to collaborate with both the internal and the external stakeholders, the members of the community and the school. It's always a team play.

Transparency is the key. It must adhere to dedicating commitment to our services for the good of our learners—to give them better place to learn something and a better learning environment to be motivated.

Brigada Eskwela School Coordinator Lydia Vitalicio shared that the biggest challenge for her as the school coordinator is preparing the documents for evaluation and validation.

Prior to the distinction in Malilipot, Albay, VPES had been validated by the Regional BE and Brigada Pagbasa Validators headed by Engr. Ronald C. Asis, Chief ESSD on March 2, 2022.

This school year's Brigada Eskwela is mandated by the DepEd Memorandum No. 48, s. 2021.

BAYANIHAN PARA SA PAARALAN

The 2021 Brigada Eskwela's theme, *Bayanihan sa Paaralan*, emphasizes the country's collective efforts in promoting collaboration for safe living and addressing social issues and concerns in schools, at homes, and in the community.

Brigada Eskwela, brings teachers, parents and community members to work together in repairing and preparing public schools for school opening. In the spirit of bayanihan, private institutions/individuals and even the local government units contributed in generating resources for the effort. During the week-long event, volunteers take time out in doing minor repairs, painting, and cleaning of the school.

As stated in VPES' BE-LCP, Virac Pilot Elementary School binds to support our mandate to capacitate in ensuring a child-friendly environment and in complying to quality standards prescribed in this pandemic days. VPES carried out its program and activities with smile and love for the pupils, keeping in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over.

PREMIERE SCHOOL

Virac Pilot Elementary School is one of the premier schools in Schools Division Office of Catanduanes with a total enrollment of 1,509 pupils for the school year 2021-2022, with 60 teaching personnel and 5 non-teaching personnel.

VPES caters four curriculum programs, namely: Special Science Elementary School (SSES), Special Program in Journalism (SPJ), Madrasah Education Program (MEP) and the BEP (Kindergarten to Grade Six). In this time of pandemic, the school applies blended learning modalities—modular print and online class.

Despite the numbers, the VPES personnel cannot do it alone. Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses, PTA, school funds cannot suffice the financial needs for school's improvement and maintenance. Thus, we need volunteers to contribute their time, skills, efforts, and resources in preparation for the opening of the limited face-to-face classes in the new normal.

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

A quote said, "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail."

This holds to be true for the Brigada Eskwela activity. Thus, the pre-implementation phase of Brigada Eskwela is very important, especially in setting all things right. Physical facilities and maintenance needs of the schools were assessed, Brigada Eskwela Committees were organized, advocacy, marketing, and resource mobilization team functioned to the fullest via different platforms, such as, *bandillo* in barangays and Facebook posts.

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE: PROJECTS' PROJECTILE

Several completed tangible projects helped VPES to gain the Brigada award, such as, the construction of AGAPP building through private donors, construction of guard house, waiting area, comfort rooms, hand washing facilities, and others.

1. Project AGAPP

Project AGAPP's general objective is to enable the parents and the teachers have a conducive learning environment in which they could do their work and task safely. Through private donors, this was realized and now being used by the Kindergarten teachers and parents.

2. Project VPES: Ligtas sa Virus (WiNS Project)

This project's objective is to provide our learners, parents and school personnel a waiting area with guardhouse and an accessible comfort rooms for male and female and a handwashing area. Through the DPWH and private donors, this was realized.

3.VPES Bayanihan: Paaralang Handa, Ligtas at Malinis

The objective is to provide the learners, parents and the community a safe and clean learning environment. Volunteers and several groups participated in this project, such as Barangay Local Government Units and constituents of the VPES service barangays, Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and 4Ps Members led by the School 4Ps Coordinator. They

helped in cleaning the school grounds, clearing tall grasses and tree branches, painting decors and walls, repairing windows, tables and chairs, sweeping, and cleaning the classrooms.

4. VPES Disinfect to Protect

The objective is to provide learners, parents and the community a safe and clean environment and limit the spread of COVID-19. The school coordinated with both the Virac Municipal and Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of Catanduanes. Cleaning the remaining debris of supertyphoon Rolly was prioritized by the groups.

5. GREENING VPES (*Gulayan sa Paaralan/Tahanan*)

The objectives of this project are to develop VPES vacant lots and make it usable and productive, to provide fresh and nutritious vegetables and root crops, to have a sustainable food production, and to have a good school landscape and a welcoming environment. This was participated by volunteers, parents and teachers, as the Gulayan sa Paaralan Coordinator leading. Project *Ugsok Kalunggay* was also a part of this project.

6. Project Safety First

The objectives are to provide struggling readers a conducive and safe learning environment in school and at home, and to provide facemasks, face shields, alcohol, hand sanitizers, hand soap and other health essential items. Brigada Pagbasa volunteers, former and present VPES teachers, retired educators from different institutions, and other volunteers helped in the realization of this project which garnered alcohol and face mask supplies, snacks, and books for the learners.

7. Project Slippers for Readers

The objective is to provide extrinsic reward to those learners who have improved reading skills. And yes, the reward was slippers donated by volunteers and VPES alumni. A long way to go indeed, yet it starts with a few brave steps.

8. Project Book Drive

The objective is to provide appropriate and varied reading materials to the learners. Benevolent parents, VPES former pupils, teachers and other volunteers made this possible as they helped in donating books and other reading materials for the VPES learners.

RESOURCES GENERATED IN THE NEW NORMAL

A total of 409 Brigada Eskwela volunteers and 15 Brigada Pagbasa volunteer tutors had accumulated 2013.5 and 650 volunteer man-hours respectively, or a total of Php 273,012.50 when converted to peso.

In addition, the generated resources in BE-LCP Implementation has recorded Php 159,000.00, and the generated Resources under Scope of Work and Other Donations tallied Php 4,688,624.00.

In sum, VPES has accumulated a total of Php 5,120,636.50 worth of resources for this school year's Brigada Eskwela.

POST-IMPLEMENTATION

Beyond the pages of the consolidated BE accomplishment reports, the program will not be realized if not for the support and contributions of the stakeholders, teachers, and the school head who worked harmoniously and moved with one goal in mind: to prepare the school and the pupils for the opening of the limited face-to-face classes.