



COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

REGIONAL OFFICE III

RELEASED
AUG 31 2023
CHEDRO III

CHEDRO-III MEMORANDUM
No. 155, s. 2023

For : **ALL PRESIDENTS/HEADS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
IN REGION III**

Subject : **Nationwide Screening of the Film, "The Blind Soldiers"**

Date : **August 30, 2023**

This Office endorses to all state universities and colleges (SUCs), local colleges (LCs), and private higher education institutions (PHEIs) in Central Luzon, to urge their respective students to watch the movie entitled, "The Blind Soldiers" (Surrender Is Not An Option), as an educational material in support to **CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) Nos. 01 and 02, series of 2019 on the Integration of Peace Studies/Education and Indigenous Peoples' Studies into the Relevant Higher Education Curricula.**

The said film is a tribute in honor of the patriotism of the unsung heroes of World War II who were conscripted in the USAFFE in 1941. This film was chosen as a finalist by the Saskatchewan International Film Festival and is scheduled to be shown in Canada on October 14-21, 2023, at the Reel Attractions Theater, City of Humboldt, Saskatchewan. **More importantly, the screening of this film in the country will be on September 15-19, 2023 in selected SM and Robinsons Cinemas nationwide.**

Relative to this, **may we encourage all the school officials, faculty/teachers, and students of SUCs, LCs, and PHEIs to watch this must-see once in a lifetime movie which clearly depicts the lessons of considerable values on education, peace, culture, history and love of country.**

Attached are the endorsements of the Commission en Banc (CEB) through Resolution No. 658-2022 and the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), for your reference and guidance.

For the participation of all concerned.

Wide dissemination of this memorandum is desired.


MS. LORA L. YUSI
Chief Education Program Specialist
Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Director IV



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION



05/08/2023
ANGELICA C. ENRIQUEZ
Board Secretary II

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 589th REGULAR COMMISSION EN BANC MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2022 AT THE OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT (OPSD) CONFERENCE ROOM, 3/F HEDC BLDG, C.P. GARCIA AVE., DILIMAN QUEZON CITY

RESOLUTION No. 658 - 2022

RESOLUTION ENDORSING TO ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs), LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (LUCs), AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (PHEIs), TO URGE THEIR RESPECTIVE STUDENTS TO WATCH THE MOVIE ENTITLED "THE BLIND SOLDIERS" AS AN EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL IN SUPPORT TO CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO) NOS. 01 AND 02, SERIES OF 2019 ON THE INTEGRATION OF PEACE STUDIES/EDUCATION AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' STUDIES INTO THE RELEVANT HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA

WHEREAS, Article XIV Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states: The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;

WHEREAS, there is need to find creative ways on how to teach and train our students to engage in active debates and discussions on how they will deepen their knowledge on patriotism, peace, justice, respect, love, and awareness of Indigenous Peoples' (IP) rights and lead them to appreciate the role of the Indigenous Peoples as partners in development and further motivate them to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of the IP culture being the bedrock of a genuine Filipino culture;

WHEREAS, there is a need to inculcate and promote Indigenous Peoples' awareness, patriotism, peace, justice, respect, love, among Filipino students through arts and movies;

WHEREAS, the movie "The Blind Soldiers" demonstrates the Indigenous Peoples inherent love for their country as able defenders of the rights of the people while further demonstrating the values of education, patriotism, peace, justice, respect, and love;

WHEREAS, "The Blind Soldiers" is a historical depiction of the life of five uneducated IP young men from Upi, Maguindanao belonging to the Teduray tribe, who despite their educational infirmity applied to be conscripted into the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) during the Second World War to help defend the country from the Japanese invaders;

To be continued on the next page.



Continuation of CEB Resolution No. 658-2022
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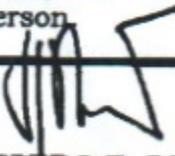
WHEREAS, the showing of "The Blind Soldiers" shall be in connection with the integration of Peace Education and Indigenous Peoples Education in the Social Science subjects and its allied courses and in the relevant higher education curricula, pursuant to CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) Nos. 01 and 02, Series of 2019;

WHEREAS, "The Blind Soldiers" carries the values of the importance of education including patriotism, peace, justice, respect, and love among others and is a "dramedy" (drama-action-comedy) film directed by actor-director Commissioner Ronald L. Adamat;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has a history of endorsing films as a way of promoting culture, history, and values education that very recently it has partnered with CINEISKOOL which showcased ten (10) short films produced under the Cineiskool Short Film Lab and Festival in a premiere and awards night held at the Gateway Mall, Quezon City on 22 June 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, be it:

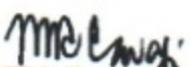
RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that upon discussion and agreement, with the concurrence of the Management Committee, the Commission **approved** to endorse the movie "The Blind Soldiers" to all State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), and Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) for the viewing of their respective students as an educational material in support of CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) Nos. 01 and 02, Series of 2019, respectively known as the "Integration of Peace Studies/Education into the Relevant Higher Education Curricula" and "Integration of Indigenous Peoples Studies into the Relevant Higher Education Curricula" through a Memorandum from the Office of the CHED Chairperson.

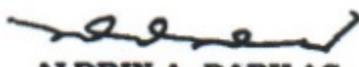

J. PROSPERO E. DE VEA III

Chairman

589th Regular Commission en Banc Meeting
20 December 2022


RONALD L. ADAMAT
Commissioner


MARITA R. CARAPI
Commissioner


ALDRIN A. DARILAG
Commissioner


JO MARK M. LIBRE
Commissioner



PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

No. 142 Scout Rallos Extension, Brgy. Sacred Heart, Diliman, Quezon City 1103

Email addresses: secretary@pasuc.org.ph, pasuoffice@gmail.com

Tel. Nos. (02) 8376-6213 / 8376-6217

May 04, 2023

Mr. VICENTE G. DEL ROSARIO, JR.

President

VIVA Entertainment, Inc.

Philippine Stock Exchange Center

Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Dear Mr. Del Rosario:

Greetings!

On behalf of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), the umbrella organization of the 114 State Universities and Colleges in the country, may I respectfully endorse the nationwide screening of the movie titled "**THE BLIND SOLDIERS**", a film that depicts the lives of five young men from the Teduray tribe who were conscripted into the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) during the Second World War.

Despite their lack of educational qualifications, these young men surpassed expectations and were later recognized for their bravery and patriotism. The undersigned view the movie, which is set in rural Mindanao, as an educational, cultural, and artistic piece. Therefore, PASUC extends its support.

The screening of this film in all movie theatres nationwide is in line with the goals of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 01, series of 2019, also referred to as "INTEGRATION OF PEACE STUDIES/EDUCATION INTO THE RELEVANT HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA" and CMO No. 02, series of 2019, also known as "INTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES STUDIES/EDUCATION INTO THE RELEVANT HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA".

There is a pressing need to enhance the awareness of Filipino students regarding the significance of peace in nation-building and to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples. We believe the film is highly educational and can serve as a valuable resource for reaction papers and movie reviews. As such, it is an effective medium to further promote the objectives of both CMO No. 01 and CMO No. 02, series of 2019.

Although "**The Blind Soldiers**" is primarily credited to Hon. Dr. Ronald L. Adamat, CHED Commissioner, as its top biller, producer, and co-director, other notable actors such as Long Mejia, Soliman Cruz, Bong Cabrera, and Gary Lim, whom all portray the Teduray conscripts that underwent training and preparation to fight against the Japanese invaders as part of the USAFFE soldiers, will undoubtedly serve as a source of inspiration for our youth.



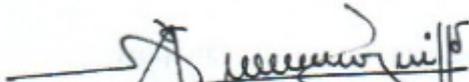
Moreover, Commissioner Adamat has successfully implemented the integration of peace studies/education and indigenous peoples' studies/education, recognizing that academic communities can promote these disciplines. This transformational effort can help shape the youth, who are the future of the country and the foundation of Philippine society, into becoming agents of peace.

Therefore, the undersigned would like to extend our unwavering support to VIVA Films, the sole distributor of the film. We will actively encourage and invite members of our academic communities to watch **"The Blind Soldiers"** once it is released in movie theaters nationwide. We firmly believe that the film can provide an opportunity for students and stakeholders to generate reaction papers, reflection papers, term papers, literary critiques, and comments, particularly in the areas of peace and peace-building, as well as indigenous peoples' rights awareness.

Given all of these considerations, we earnestly hope that **"The Blind Soldiers"** will be screened in all movie theaters as soon as possible.

Thank you very much and more power.

Very truly yours,



Dr. TIRSO A. RONQUILLO, ASEAN Eng.

National President, Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges
President, Batangas State University, The National Engineering University

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