WORK FROM HOME IS THE NEW NORM

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For the longest time, teachers and other school personnel have used to the usual 8:00 am to 5:00 pm work routine. In other workplaces, it may be from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Nevertheless, whichever time frame we may serve, we have been working in a 6-hour actual teaching routine plus the two hours of teaching-related work. However, due to the crisis amidst this COVID 19 Pandemic, our life and ways of living have been changed. No one has ever thought of it. No one has ever prepared for it. Nevertheless, life and work must go on. With all these crises that we are experiencing, we must have to follow health and safety protocols issued by the IATF.

As to the workplace and work schedules, a new system has adapted, the Work From Home (WFH), and an Alternative Work Arrangement (AWA) scheme.

With the AWA, teachers and other personnel are working from home. They do all the work and related tasks at home away from the workstation.

Teachers do all the paper works, worksheets, forms and tools, surveys, and others at home. They conduct remote enrollment and accomplish LESF thru text and call among parents. They are busy writing and revising modules. They prepared learning materials to supplement the modular print materials to be given to learners each week. Also, they prepared modular print learning and find ways to provide teaching materials in other platforms through phone calls, messages, virtual sessions, and video tutorials.

Further, they prepare themselves psychologically and emotionally as all these things happenings are challenges and must have to overcome this.
Working from home is not that easy. Why? It is because, when you work from home, there is no more reference to time. There are meetings even beyond 6:00 in the evening, series of webinars even on weekends, even at lunchtime. It seems that work has become 24/7. We cannot file any leave of absence because we are working from home. We always make ourselves available by phone or online. WFH is not that easy as other people may think it is.

Work from home is the new norm until such time that everything is back to normal.

References:
Revised Guidelines on Alternative Work Arrangements in the Department of Education During the Period of State of National Emergency Due to Covid-19 Pandemic (DepEd Order No.11, s.2020)