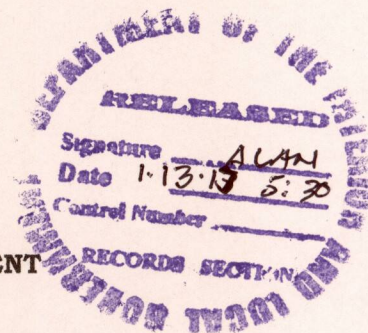




REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
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January 13, 2017

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
**NO. 2017-05**

**TO :** ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS,  
PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
AND OTHERS CONCERNED

**SUBJECT :** AUTISM CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK (NACW)

Pursuant to Proclamation No. 711, signed by President Fidel V. Ramos on January 4, 1996, declaring every third week of January of each year is as “Autism Consciousness Week”.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. In the Philippines, statistics show that at least 600,000 families are estimated to be affected with autism and it is the fastest growing incidence of disorder among Filipinos. This in turn requires the awareness and understanding from the government down to the communities and families to promote a support environment for our brothers and sisters with disabilities and enable them to live independently with dignity and contribute to the development of the society.

In view of this, the observance of the National Autism Consciousness Week shall be conducted on January 15-21, 2017. All concerned are requested to conduct fitting activities in line with the said event. For more information you may contact Mr. Rizalio R. Sanchez or Ms. Delfina J. Baquir of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) thru telephone nos. 951-5013, 932-6422 local 111.

All Regional Directors are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Circular and extend necessary assistance.

By the Authority of the Secretary:

**AUSTERE A. PANADERO**  
Undersecretary for Local Government

