

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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2018 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY (WAAD)

Memorandum Circular No. 2018-21
February 26, 2018

1. Background

Pursuant to Resolution No. 62/139 which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2007, every 2nd day of April of each year is declared as the “World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD).”

Autism is a life long developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life and results from a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, mostly affecting children in many countries irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status and characterized by impairment in social interaction, problems with verbal and non-verbal communication and restricted repetitive behavior, interests and activities.

2. Purpose

This Memorandum Circular is issued to encourage all local government units to observe this event with the intent to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of persons with autism in order to create an environment that will allow them to enjoy productive lives and prevent discrimination especially for women and girls with autism.

3. Scope/Coverage

All Provincial Governors, City/Municipal Mayors, Punong Barangays, DILG Regional Directors, ARMM Regional Secretary and all others concerned.

4. Policy Content and Guidelines

In consonance with the event, the Philippines is joining the rest of the countries of the world in commemorating WAAD through the holding of a Light-It-Up-Blue (LIUB) ceremony nationwide on April 2, 2018. LIUB involves the lighting-up of edifices, landmarks, monuments, schools, businesses, homes, and other related infrastructures. The theme “**Empowering Women and Girls with Autism**” is adopted for the 2018 World Autism Awareness Day Celebration.

In commemoration of the WAAD, all concerned are requested to extend full support to the above-mentioned event by: (1) hanging of streamers in conspicuous places; (2) recite the “1 Pangako” (see attached) during the flag raising ceremony on April 2, 2018; (3) conducting

appropriate support activities; and (4) illuminating office buildings and landmarks with blue lights as the entire country participates in the symbolic “Light it up Blue” ceremony on April 2, 2018 at 6:00 in the evening.


The layout/design of the WAAD streamer can be downloaded from the NCDA website <http://www.ncda.gov.ph>.

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

5. References:

- 5.1. Letter from Executive Director Carmen R. Zubiaga of the National Council on Disability Affairs; and
- 5.2. United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139 declaring April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day.

6. Approving Authority


USEC. EDUARDO M AÑO
Officer-In-Charge



7. Feedback

For more information, you may contact Ms. Sheryl N. Macalipay of Bureau of Local Government Development, this Department at tel no. 927-7852 or Mr. Rizalio R. Sanchez and/or Mr. Jayme J. Mariño of NCDA at telephone nos. 951-5013, 932-6422 local 111 and mobile nos. 0920-9062306 and 0920-9022296 respectively or thru email address: council@ncda.gov.ph.

1 Pangako

Ako ay nangangakong kikilos para mahinto
ang maling paggamit
ng salitang “autistic”
bilang kutya o katatawanan.

Isusulong ko
ang tunay na pagtanggap
at pagkalinga
sa mga taong may kapansanan,
sa tulong ng Maykapal.