



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

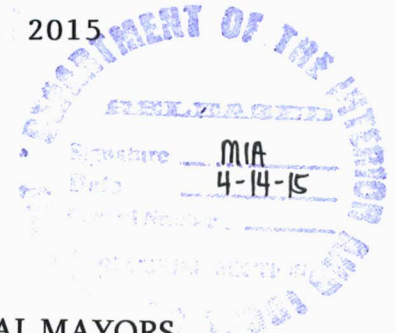
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April 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 2015-41



TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS,
PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND FIELD
OFFICERS

SUBJECT : LGU SUPPORT ON THE NATIONAL HIV TESTING WEEK

The HIV and AIDS epidemic in the country remains to be increasing since 2007. Factors to the rise of HIV cases include low testing rates among Key Populations at Higher Risk such as Males who have Sex with Males (MSM) and People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) due to poor self-awareness to risk and HIV services as well as persistence of stigma and discrimination in the society.

As a result, the Department of Health (DOH) issued a Memorandum declaring May 11-15, 2015 as National HIV Testing Week (NHTW)—the week preceding the AIDS Candlelight Memorial on May 17, 2015.

In view of the above, all Local Government Units are hereby encouraged to support the said activity specifically on coming up with campaigns to promote the NHTW and HIV testing. The DOH, through the Research Institute for tropical Medicine (RITM), will provide LGUs the developed audio-visual materials for electronic billboards, and ensure that HIV test kits are available for the Social Hygiene Clinics. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), on the other hand, will assist newly diagnosed clients through the latter's existing referral system.

Please be guided that Republic Act 8504 ("Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998") Article III Sec. 15 states that consent is a requisite for HIV testing. No compulsory HIV testing would be allowed; however, voluntary testing for individuals with a high risk for contracting HIV is encouraged provided that written informed consent must be obtained. At the same time, Article VI Sec. 30 of the same law states the strict observance of medical confidentiality in handling all medical information, particularly the identity and status of person with HIV.



With the following support mechanisms guided by the law, the LGUs are advised to coordinate with the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) or your respective DOH Regional Offices on the matter.

All DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular.

For further questions or clarifications, please contact Ms. Anjela Mae Era at (02) 634-1912 loc. 119 or email at anjela.era@gmail.com.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


MAR ROXAS
Secretary 



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