



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City

http://www.dilg.gov.ph



## 23<sup>RD</sup> AUTISM CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

**Reference Number:** 2019-11

**Date:** January 24, 2019

### 1. Background

Autism is a lifelong 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.

In view of the growing incidence of autism among Filipinos, the Autism Consciousness Week is being observed every third week of January of each year which is supported by Proclamation No. 711 (1996).

### 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 the observance of the Autism Awareness Week on January 19-26, 2019 with this year's theme "Pagtuon: Tugon sa mga Pilipinong May "K" dulot ng Autismo" #Kakayahan #Kagalingan #Kakayahan #Katalinuhan #Kapansanan.

Relative thereto, all Local Government Units and others concerned are requested to extend full support to the above-mentioned event by: (1) hanging of streamers in conspicuous places; (2) reciting the "1 Pangako" (see attached) during the flag raising ceremony on January 21, 2019; (3) conducting appropriate support activities.


The layout/design of the Autism Consciousness Week 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. Proclamation No. 711

**6. Approving Authority**

  
**EDUARDO M AÑO**  
Secretary *pm*

   
DILG-08EC 11052018-02940

**7. Feedback**

For more information, you may contact Mr. Rizalio R. Sanchez and/or Mr. Jayme J. Mariño of NCDA at telephone nos. 951-5013, 932-6422 local 111.

## 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.