



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>



24TH AUTISM CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

Memorandum Circular No. 2020-003

07 JAN 2020

1. Background

- 1.1. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life and results from the 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.
- 1.2. In response to 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 (LGUs) 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.

3. Scope/Coverage

All Provincial Governors, BARMM Chief Minister, City / Municipal Mayors, Punong Barangays, DILG Regional Directors, BARMM Minister of Local Government, Field Officers and all others concerned.

4. Policy Content and Guidelines

- 4.1. The **24th Autism Consciousness Week** for this year shall be observed on January 20-26, 2020.
- 4.2. To give prominence to the celebration, all Local Government Units (LGUs) are enjoined to hang streamers in conspicuous places/spot in their offices/edifices to promote the said celebration. The editable banners can be downloaded to these links:

2ft x 4ft <http://bit.ly/2Pd1wjx>
2ft x 6ft <http://bit.ly/2p5SNoz>
Banner Square <http://bit.ly/2MFmk1D>
- 4.3. Reading/Reciting the 1Bansa, 1Pangako oath during the Monday morning flag ceremony. The toolkit can be downloaded from: <http://bit.ly/1bansa1pangako> or you may see attached file.

4.4. LGUs are enjoined to support the weeklong celebration by conducting fitting activities, mindful of the themes and their contribution to the objectives of the celebration.

4.5. All Regional Directors are hereby directed to conduct related activities at your level, extend full support to LGUs for the meaningful observation of the 24th Autism Consciousness Week.

5. References

5.1 Letter from Officer-In-Charge Mateo A. Lee, Jr. of the National Council on Disability Affairs;

5.2 Proclamation No. 711(1996)

6. Approving Authority



EDUARDO MAÑO
Secretary, DILG

7. Feedback

For queries and further information you may visit this link:
<http://www.autismsocietyphilippines.org/>



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ENGLISH

Autism is a neuro-developmental condition affecting millions of Filipinos. You may already know or see persons with autism from church, school, work, mall, theater, hospitals ... they are not very different from you. Individuals with autism simply have a unique way of processing things they see, hear, feel, taste and smell. The condition comes with communication and socialization difficulties which many do not understand. Families who live with autism have daily struggles not everyone can understand.

Having autism is NOT a joke or an insult. Having autism is NOT equivalent to being unintelligent or indifferent. Having autism is NOT equivalent to being violent or having an explosive behavior. People with autism deserve the right to exist with dignity.

I am I am a person with autism. Wherever you are, say the pledge after me.

I promise to act to stop the use of autism as a joke or insult – in word and in deed! I will work to advance the genuine acceptance, accommodation and appreciation of Filipinos with disabilities, so help me God.

TAGALOG

Ang autismo ay isang kondisyong medikal na umaapekto sa milyong-milyong Pilipino. Malamang, naka-kilala o naka-kita ka na ng taong may autismo sa simbahan, sa paaralan, sa trabaho, sa mall, sa sinehan, sa ospital ... hindi sila naiiba sa iyo. Yun lang ay naiiba ang pagwari ng taong may autismo sa mga bagay na kanyang nakikita, naririnig, nararamdaman, nalalasaan at naaamoy. Nahihirapan sila magsalita at makipag-halubilo sa mga tao at hindi ito maintindihan ng karamihan. Ang mga nabubuhay ng may autismo sa pamilya ay may mga pang-araw-araw na hamon na hindi natin lahat mauunawaan.

Ang autismo ay hindi pang-patawa o pang-kutya. Ang pagkakaroon ng autismo ay HINDI katumbas ng kawalan ng talino o malasakit sa iba. Ang pagkakaroon ng autismo ay HINDI katumbas ng pagiging marahas or walang paghuhunos-dili. May karapatan ang mga taong may autismo na mamuhay ng may dignidad.

Ako si Ako ay isang taong may autismo. Kahit nasaan man kayo ngayon, gumawa tayo ng 1 pangako.

Ako ay nangangakong kikilos para mahinto ang paggamit ng autismo bilang kutya o katatawanan – sa salita at sa gawal! Isusulong ko ang tunay na pagtanggap, pagkalinga at pagpapahalaga sa mga Pilipinong may kapansanan, sa tulong ng Maykapal.