



## 25<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL AUTISM CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

Memorandum Circular No. 2021-005

18 JAN 2021

### 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).
- 1.3 The observance of this event hopes to create an environment that will allow person with autism disability to enjoy productive lives by raising the awareness of the people throughout the society and to inform the public that the causes of disabilities can be prevented and in cases when such disabilities exist, early detection and prompt and appropriate intervention can be performed.

### 2. Purpose

This Memorandum Circular is issued to enjoin all Local Government Units (LGUs) to observe the Celebration of the **25<sup>th</sup> National Autism Consciousness Week** in order to raise nationwide awareness and sensitivity to the plight of individuals with disability.

### 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 This year's Autism Consciousness Week adopts the theme "Pilipinong May Autismo: Kakaiba, Kasali, Konektado" which will be commemorated on **January 18-24, 2021**.
- 4.2 Reading/Reciting the **1 Bansa, 1 Pangako** oath during the Monday morning flag ceremony. You may see the attached file below.
- 4.3 To give prominence to the celebration, all Local Government Units (LGUs) are enjoined to hang streamers in conspicuous places in their offices/edifices to promote the said celebration. Streamer can be downloaded at this link: <http://bit.ly/NACW2021-banner>.
- 4.4 LGUs are also enjoined to support the celebration by conducting fitting activities, mindful of the themes and their contribution to the objectives of the celebration.
- 4.5 All DILG Regional Directors are hereby directed to cause the immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to all LGUs within their respective regional assignments.

#### 5. References

- 5.1 Proclamation No. 711 dated 04 January 1996.

#### 6. Approving Authority

  
**UNDERSECRETARY BERNARDO C. FLORECE, JR.**  
Officer-In-Charge

#### 7. Feedback

For related inquiries, all concerned may directly visit this link:  
<http://www.autismsocietyphilippines.org/2020/12/national-autism-consciousness-week-2021.html>.



## **1 Bansa, 1 Pangako**

*Autism is a complex and lifelong developmental exceptionality, challenging an individual's ability to communicate, socialize and adapt to the world around him. This spectrum condition manifests uniquely in different persons. It is a variation of the human condition affecting approximately 1.2 million Filipinos and needs our acceptance, accommodation and appreciation.*

*Ang autismo ay hindi katatawanan o 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.*

*Kahit nasaan man kayo ngayon, gumawa tayo ng isang pangako.*

*(Raise right hand)*

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