



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CARAGA REGION



REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. **(171)**, s. 2024

OCT 29 2024

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

ADVANCE GUIDANCE ON THE REGIONAL, DIVISION, AND SCHOOL LEVEL
CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 32ND NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MONTH

1. This refers to the attached Memorandum OUOPS-2024-05-17052 dated October 4, 2024, from **ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO**, Undersecretary for Operations, Department of Education, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
2. In reference with the Republic Act No. 10661, which declared the month of November every year as the *National Children's Month*, this celebration commemorates the adoption of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) on November 20, 1989, promoting and protecting children's rights. Section 4 of the Act mandates DepEd to facilitate and encourage the observance of NCM across all public and private schools nationwide.
3. The Department of Education joins in celebrating the 32nd National Children's Month (NCM) with the theme, "*Break the Prevalence, End the Violence: Protecting Children, Creating a Safe Philippines!*".
4. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION, CESO IV
Director III
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Regional Director

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR:


PEDRO TENEBRO ESCOBARTE, JR.
Director III
Assistant Regional Director

Encl.: None
Reference: OUOPS-2024-05-17052
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index



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under the following subjects:

COMMITTEES WORKSHOPS

ESSD/sa
10/29/2024



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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUOPS-2024-__-__

FOR : **REGIONAL DIRECTORS**
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION CHIEFS
SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS DIVISION CHIEFS
REGIONAL AND DIVISION LEARNER RIGHTS AND
PROTECTION FOCAL PERSONNEL
SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : **ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO**
Undersecretary for Operations

SUBJECT : **ADVANCE GUIDANCE ON THE REGIONAL, DIVISION, AND**
SCHOOL LEVEL CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 32ND NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S MONTH

DATE : October 4, 2024

The Department of Education (DepEd) joins the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the National Youth Commission (NYC), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government units, and private organizations including the civil society, private enterprises, and nongovernment, civic, and people's organizations, and the whole nation in celebrating the 32nd National Children's Month (NCM) with the theme, *Break the Prevalence, End the Violence: Protecting Children, Creating a Safe Philippines!*

The celebration is in line with Republic Act No. 10661¹ which declared the month of November every year as the National Children's Month, commemorating the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on November 20, 1989, seeking to promote the protection of children's rights. Section 4 thereof mandates DepEd to facilitate and encourage the observance of the NCM in all schools, public and private, nationwide.

This year, the 32nd NCM anniversary will focus on preventing and addressing Violence Against Children (VAC). Under the UNCRC, VAC is defined as "*all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.*" The 2015 National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS-VAC) reported that 80% of children in the Philippines have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, whether in the home, school,

¹ Republic Act (RA) No. 10661, "An Act Declaring the Month of November of Every Year as the National Children's Month," May 29, 2015.

workplace, community or during dating, with a notable higher incidence observed within households. For emphasis, VAC negatively affects the children's four (4) core rights, that is – the right to survival, development, protection, and participation, which adversely impacts the holistic development of a child into adulthood. Beyond the immediate trauma, children subjected to violence endure long-term effects, even exacerbating the risk of perpetuating their cycle of abuse and violence.

The alarming statistics of VAC on a global and national scale underpin the need to heed the call to raise awareness of VAC and its effects. This is also in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2, which aims to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children.” The Philippines has been making substantial progress in ending VAC through the issuance of the following laws:

- RA 11930 or “The Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act”
- RA 11862 or the “Expanded Anti-Trafficking Persons Act of 2022”
- RA 11648 or “An Act Providing for Stronger Protection Against Rape and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Increasing the Age for Determining the Commission of Statutory Rape”
- RA 11596 or “An Act of Prohibiting the Practice of Child Marriage and Imposing Penalties for Violation Thereof,” and RA 11188, also known as the “Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act,” among others.

This year's NCM shall cover four (4) categories of children's rights per week of November, namely: survival rights (1st week), development rights (2nd week), participation rights/national play advocacy (3rd week), and protection rights/juvenile justice consciousness (4th week). The program aims to strengthen public awareness of the prevalence of VAC and advocate for implementation and enforcement of measures, as well as empower our children, parents and/or caregivers, and communities to recognize and report instances of violence against children.

There shall also be special celebrations for children, which will simultaneously be conducted:

- **3rd week of November:** National Play Advocacy Week (NPAW) led by the Philippine Play Coalition; and
- **4th week of November:** The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Consciousness Week will be led by the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC).

Moreover, the CWC shall undertake the following activities:

Activity	Schedule
Talakayang Makabata: The 2024 NCM Press Conference	October 18, 2024 (Friday) 9:00AM – 12:00NN
NCM Kick-Off Ceremony • Launching of the 2024 State of the Filipino Children Report (SOFCR) with VAC as the theme • Enhanced PACFMC Guidelines 4th National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC)	November 4, 2024 (Monday) 8:00AM – 12:00NN
National Play Advocacy Week	November 18 -22, 2024 (Monday – Friday)

7 th Conference on Parenting in the Digital Age	November 25, 2024 (Monday) 2:00PM – 4:00PM
NCM Culminating Ceremony	November 27, 2024 (Wednesday) 9:00AM – 12:00NN

For details, participants may visit the CWC website www.cwc.gov.ph or through their social media accounts, fb.com/CWCgovph, or @CWC_govph (X Account), or at their Youtube Channel: @CWCCChildrenOfficial

In line with the foregoing celebration of National Children's Month, the Department of Education, through the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO) shall conduct the following activities in celebration of our learners:

- a. **Kick-Off Program** in Celebration of the 32nd National Children's Month, on November 7, 2024, Wednesday at 9:00 am to be conducted live and streamed via the DepEd Philippines as well as an on-ground celebration to be hosted by DepEd Region VII (school to be announced). The kick-off program shall focus its discussion on the implementation of DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2013 or the "Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 10627 Otherwise Known as the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013." The topic is intended to capacitate teachers in handling bullying cases, prevent bullying through behavioral interventions, and educate parents and guardians on bullying prevention activities. The LRPO has invited our learners, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to attend the online and on-ground kick-off program.
- b. **The Culminating Program** will be conducted in Tacloban City on November 25, 2024, DepEd Region VIII shall serve as the host region, and the program shall cap off the celebrations of all governance levels of DepEd. The Culminating Program shall feature selected learners from the region who shall lead the discussion on strengthening our advocacy of safeguarding their rights as well as ensuring a safe and positive learning environment.
- c. **Learner Rights and Protection Specialization Course**, which will run from November 26-29, 2024. The Course aims to recalibrate our trained LRP personnel and train more DepEd personnel to be learner rights and protection advocates on issuances dedicated to protecting our learners and strategies to be employed in addressing all forms of VAC in our schools, thereby developing positive results for our learners' well-being and ensuring a safe and positive learning environment.

Accordingly, the LRPO has downloaded funds to support the regional festivities and activities for NCM. Guidelines on the utilization have been issued to the Regional Offices; the latter is requested to consolidate all reports from the Division and schools with pictures and videos of their festivities on or before November 20, 2024, to the Learner Rights and Protection Office by email lrpo@deped.gov.ph

Further, materials/collaterals related to the 2024 NCM (e.g. banner design/tarpaulin design, social media cover photo template, shirt design), may be accessed and downloaded through the following links:

- a. DepEd LRPO: <https://bit.ly/LRPONCMCollaterals>

- b. LRPO Facebook Page: fb.com/deped.lrpo
- c. DepEd Facebook Page: fb.com/DepartmentOfEducation.PH

For more information on the 2024 NCM Celebrations, you may contact the Learner Rights and Protection at lrpo@deped.gov.ph

For immediate dissemination and compliance.

Thank you very much.

[LRPO-ASPR]