



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
Merced Avenue, Pasig City

January 21, 1997

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DECS MEMORANDUM
No. 14, s. 1997

DISSEMINATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 711

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities

1. Inclosed is a copy of Proclamation No. 711 dated January 4, 1996 entitled "Declaring the Third Week of January as Autism Consciousness Week".

2. Autism is a congenital defect or defect existing at birth in which to this day has no known remedy or complete cure. The condition is a severe disability wherein the autistic child cannot relate or experience a difficult time establishing a relationship with people even with his own parents.

3. There are a number of special schools in the country which provide therapy to autistic children. Instructional programs are geared towards helping the autistic child to learn how to interact with normal children and develop the ability to focus.

4. In line with the Proclamation and to help promote greater awareness among parents and school populace, this Department encourages classroom discussion during the week on topic about Autism, its symptoms and other related subject matters.

5. Wide and immediate dissemination of this Memorandum to all concerned is desired.


RICARDO T. GLORIA
Secretary

Incl.:

As stated

Reference: None

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(M.O. 1-87)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
LEGISLATION

OFFICIALS
SCHOOLS

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 711

DECLARING THE THIRD WEEK OF JANUARY AS AUTISM
CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

WHEREAS, there is a growing incidence of autism among Filipinos, necessitating more people from different sectors to become aware of this disability;

WHEREAS, it is the aim of the Philippine Government to develop awareness of the problems of autistic persons and promote a supportive environment among communities to enable autistic persons to live with dignity and enable them to function independently and contribute productively to society;

WHEREAS, the growing number of autistic persons has spawned the need for early diagnosis, therapy and education intervention to help them and their families manage the lifelong disability;

WHEREAS, the government recognizes the need to provide greater attention and assistance to the plight of autistic persons and mobilize its various agencies and departments, especially the Department of Health, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to look into how they can meaningfully support community-based approaches toward providing early diagnosis, therapy and education intervention to autistic persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare January 15 to 21, 1996 and every third week of January thereafter as "Autism Consciousness Week". For this purpose the Department of Health, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Department of Interior and Local Government will jointly serve as the national focal point for the commemoration of this event. These agencies will take the lead in initiating activities that will increase awareness on autism and its effects, as well as its early identification. To ensure immediate intervention, the participation and cooperation of non-government organizations and the private sector will be secured.



IN REPLYING, PLEASE CITE:

FOR LETTER # 136004

136004

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 4th day of January in the year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Six.



By the President:



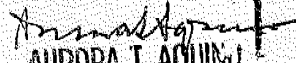
RUBEN D. TORRES
Executive Secretary

ACC/man 22

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CERTIFIED COPY.

Jan 11 1996



AURORA T. AQUINO
DIRECTOR IV