



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS**  
 DECS Complex Meralco Avenue  
 Pasig City

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 30, 1999

DECS MEMORANDUM  
 No 297, s 1999

1999 WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

TO Bureau Directors  
 Regional Directors  
 Schools Division Superintendents  
 Heads of Private Elementary and Secondary Special Schools

1 Pursuant to Republic Act No 6759 otherwise known as An Act Declaring August 1 of Each Year as White Cane Safety Day in the Philippines and for Other Purposes, the theme for this year's celebration is Full Participation of Children with Visual Impairment in the Community

2 The White Cane Safety Day Celebration is also the first activity of the Sight Saving Month Celebration (August) It has the following objectives

- a to insull public awareness on the welfare of the blind,
- b to promote recognition and acceptance of the White Cane as symbol of mobility for blind persons, and
- c to promote and protect the physical moral and social well being of blind persons

3 The White Cane National Inter agency Committee prepared the following specific activities on August 1 which will be undertaken in different venues

A Luneta Park, Manila

7 00 – 7 30 1 Wreath Laying to the Rizal Monument

B Quezon City Hall Lobby

8 30 – 9 00 2 Short Program to be participated by blind students GO's and NGO's

9 00 – 9 30 3 Cane Distribution to Indigent Blind Students which will be done on a first come, first serve basis

9 30–12 00 4 Free Eye Screening and Prescription to the Visually Impaired and other Students who have Eye Defects as recommended by their teachers

Together Let Us Build This Nation Through Education

On this day the blind persons will avail of free rides in the LRT buses and jeepney, while 50% discount fare will be given to their guides. This is made possible through the efforts of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) as cited in Memorandum Circular No. 99-869 s. 1999.

The aforementioned Activities 2, 3, and 4 could also be conducted at the Regional Level under the initiative of the Regional Special Education Council. Other GOs, NGOs and civic organizations can be tapped for assistance.

Other suggested activities for the celebration include:

Information dissemination concerning the education of the visually impaired by inviting blind students or educators as resource persons and other professionals working for the blind.

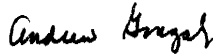
Holding symposia, fora and/or panel discussions relevant to the prevention and rehabilitation of blindness.

Conducting training on Orientation and Mobility to blind students and adults in the community and

Holding sportsfest, day camps and cultural programs which will highlight the talents and skills of the visually impaired.

4. All SPED Centers, public and private schools with special education programs and regular schools are encouraged to observe this day with appropriate activities.

5. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC  
Secretary

Reference:  
DECS Memorandum No. 291 s. 1999

Allotment: 1—(DO 50-97)

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

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS  
SPECIAL EDUCATION

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