



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

*Tanggapan ng Kalihim*  
*Office of the Secretary*

Direct Line: 633-7208  
E-Mail: [deped@pacific.net.ph](mailto:deped@pacific.net.ph)  
Website: <http://www.deped.gov.ph>

DepEd MEMORANDUM  
No. **32**, s. 2003

**FEB. 0 5 2003**

**NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH**

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Heads, Public and Private Schools

1. Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 157 (copy enclosed) dated February 18, 2002, the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, Inc. (DSAPI), celebrates the annual "**National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month**" this February.
2. To highlight this year's celebration, the **4<sup>th</sup> National Down Syndrome Convention** with the theme "**Changing Dimensions of Care,**" will be held at La Salle, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City on February 23, 2003. The celebration aims to create nationwide awareness on the Down Syndrome condition to educate the public on the conditions of children with the Down Syndrome who have potential to live normal lives.
3. Cognizant of the benefits that may be gained from the convention, school health personnel from both public and private schools, as well as education supervisors/officials handling special education classes, are enjoined to attend the said convention on **official time only**.
4. A registration fee of Four Hundred Fifty Pesos (PhP450.00) shall be charged each participant. This fee and other expenses incurred relative to this convention shall be sourced from personal funds or solicitations from government organizations (GOs) or non-government organizations (NGOs) in school community.
5. For inquiries, please contact **Mr. Elmer Lapeña**, DSAPI President, at tel. nos. (632) 895-9642 and 895-3606.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS  
Secretary

Encls.: As stated  
Reference: N-o-n-e  
Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)  
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:  
CELEBRATIONS and FESTIVALS  
CONVENTIONS

**MALACAÑANG**  
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 157

**DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS "NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH"**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to provide priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children (Art XIII, Section ii, Philippine Constitution);

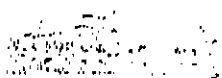
WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines recognizes that disabled children have the right to special care, education and training to help them enjoy full and decent lives in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible (Art II, Paragraph I, The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child);

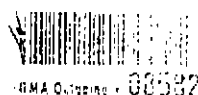
WHEREAS, there are now hundreds of thousands of Filipino children with Down Syndrome, who are invariably suffering from genetic mental, physiological and physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, children with Down Syndrome deserve the dignity and respect from everyone and need the State's mantle of protection against abuse, violence and public indifference;

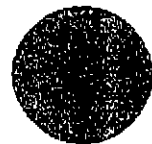
WHEREAS, nationwide awareness of the Down Syndrome condition will immensely help in educating the public on the great potential that children with Down Syndrome possess to live normal lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the month of February of 2002 and the month of February every year thereafter as the "National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month" under the auspices of the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, Inc. For this purpose, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, other related agencies and appropriate NGOs are enjoined to extend their utmost support and cooperation in the commemoration of this event.





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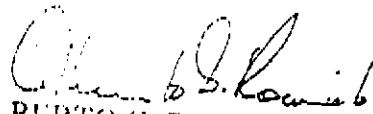
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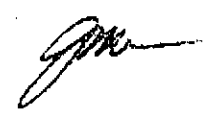
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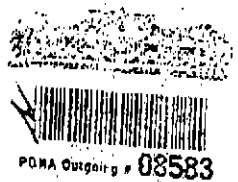
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of  
the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

at the City of Manila, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of Our Lord,  
two thousand and two.

By the President:

  
ALBERTO G. ROMULO  
Executive Secretary





CERTIFIED COPY!