



June 9, 2014

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 255 s. 2014

2014 WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

**To: Assistant Superintendents
Education Supervisors/Coordinators
District Supervisors/OICs
Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Heads, Private Elementary and Secondary Schools**

1. Attached is DepEd Memorandum No. 57, s. 2014, dated May 19, 2014, entitled, **"2014 White Cane Safety Day."**
2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

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Schools Division Superintendent

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

19 MAY 2014

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **57**, s. 2014

2014 WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Secretary, ARMM
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools
All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 6759, *declaring August 1 of every year as White Cane Safety Day*, the Department of Education (DepEd) through the Inter-Agency Committee comprising partner agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) will celebrate the **2014 White Cane Safety Day** to support the efforts of the present administration in promoting good governance through respect and realization of Human Rights. This year's theme is *Puting Baston: Tungo sa Katuparan ng Karapatan ng Mamamayang May Kapansanan sa Pangingin*.

2. The observance will commence with activities celebrating the Sight-Saving Month in August. The activities aim to:

- a. stimulate public awareness on the rights and welfare of the blind and low-vision persons;
- b. promote recognition and acceptance of the white cane safety as symbol of mobility for blind persons;
- c. strengthen and protect the physical, moral and social and cultural well-being of the blind and low-vision persons; and
- d. serve as vehicle of information on the continuing development of inclusive programs being jointly worked and implemented through Public and Private Partnerships (PPP) for the realization of the rights of the blind and low-vision persons.

3. The White Cane Inter-Agency Committee has prepared the following activities, which may be conducted throughout the month of August and beyond:

- a. distribution of white cane and talking watches to selected blind pupils/students;
- b. showcase of the blind and low-vision pupils/students' talents;
- c. sharing of information on the best practices concerning the education of the visually impaired by inviting blind pupils/students or educators as resource persons and other professionals working for blind and low-vision persons;
- d. conduct of free eye examination and screening to visually impaired pupils/students by the invited ophthalmologists/optometrists;
- e. holding of symposia, fora, workshops, panel discussion, sports, arts and cultural activities relevant to the prevention and rehabilitation of blindness; and
- f. conduct of academic contests on (1) Braille reading and writing, (2) Using Abacus, (3) Quiz VI (Visual Impairment), and (4) Cultural shows, which will highlight the talents, skills, and rights of the visually impaired pupils/students, among other activities.

4. Relevant activities may be conducted at the regional level through the initiative of Regional Special Education Council, and in cooperation with other local government units (LGUs), NGOs, and civic organizations (COs).

5. All Special Education (SPED) centers and public and private schools with SPED programs are encouraged to observe the White Cane Safety Day with appropriate activities. However, activities to be undertaken should not disrupt classes as stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled *Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*.

6. A brief narrative and pictorial report on the celebration will be submitted to **Ms. Mirla R. Olores**, Chief, Special Education (SPED) Division, Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE), DepEd Central Office, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Building, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City at telephone no.: (02) 631-9993.

7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


BR. ARMIN A. LUISTRO FSC
Secretary

Reference:

DepEd Memorandum: No. 121, s. 2013

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

CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
CONTESTS
SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Sally: 2014 white cane safety day
0330-May 2, 2014