



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
Region VI – Western Visayas  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF CAPIZ**

November 8, 2023

**DIVISION MEMORANDUM**  
NO. **574** S. 2023

**GUIDANCE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S MONTH**

To: OIC, Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent  
Chief Education Supervisor CID  
OIC, Office of the Chief Education Supervisor, SGOD  
Public Schools District Supervisors  
Heads of Public and Private Elementary, Secondary and Integrated  
Schools  
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is Regional Memorandum No. 833, s. 2023 titled "Guidance for the Celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month".
2. Schools are encouraged to undertake this month of November the suggested activities contained in the attached memorandum of the same title from Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo, Undersecretary for Operations. Also, schools and offices are encouraged to support the campaign to wear blue-colored clothing every Friday of November as stipulated in page 3 paragraph (b) of the attached memorandum to show support to the celebration.
3. Further, the schools are requested to submit a narrative report and photo documentation of the activities undertaken during the Celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month to Dr. Edna B. Azcarraga, SGOD Education Program Supervisor/Division Learner Rights and Protection (LRP) Focal Person or to Ms. Jhean Mae Grace Lingco, PDO-I/Division Learner Rights and Protection Alternate Focal Person through this link [bit.ly/3MwQ3lx](https://bit.ly/3MwQ3lx).
4. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.



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Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
Region VI – Western Visayas  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF CAPIZ**

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*May*  
**MIGUEL MAC D. APOSIN EdD, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent *MA*

Encl.: As stated

Reference: Regional Memorandum No. 833, s. 2023

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

SCHOOLS SCHOOLHEADS TEACHERS LEARNER RIGHTS AND PROTECTION



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION VI-WESTERN VISAYAS

OCT 27 2023

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM  
No. 833, s. 2023

**GUIDANCE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MONTH**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is a Memorandum from the Office of Undersecretary for Operations, **Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo**, dated October 20, 2023, regarding the **Guidance for the Celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month**, which is self-explanatory.
2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
**RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III**  
Regional Director

Encl.: As stated  
Reference: MEMO dated October 20, 2023  
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subject

CELEBRATION  
NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
MONTH

JAM/ESSD-RM/2023 Celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month  
/051/OCT.20, 2023



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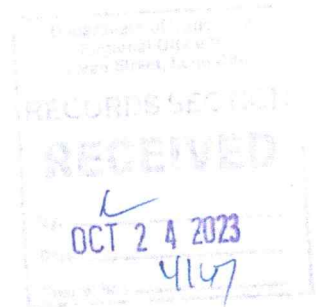
**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : All Regional Directors  
Education Support Services Division Chiefs  
School Governance and Operations Division  
Public Affairs Unit (PAU) of Regional Offices  
All Others Concerned

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

**SUBJECT** : Guidance for the Celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month

**DATE** : October 20, 2023



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 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month (NCM), with the theme, **Healthy, Nourished, Sheltered: Ensuring the Right to Life for All.**"

The NCM is annually celebrated every November pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 10661, titled **An Act Declaring the Month of November of 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 commemoration of the NCM in all schools, public and private, nationwide.

This year's 31<sup>st</sup> NCM will highlight the importance of access to available and quality healthcare for children, focusing on the following:

- Promotion of evidence-based and inclusive healthcare and nutrition services and interventions for children;
- Equipping our children, their parents, and caregivers with the right information to prevent healthcare misinformation and disinformation;
- Encourage and facilitate health-seeking behavior among families and communities.

The World Health Organization, defined health as "*a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.*" Meanwhile, nutrition is integral to health and development as improved nutrition



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correlates to better infant, child, and mental health, safer pregnancy and childbirth, decreased risk of non-communicable diseases, immunity, and longer life.

The same is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically item 3 of the Sustainable Development Goal which aims to ensure health and well-being for all, and this includes the achievement of universal health coverage and improved access to safe and effective medicines and vaccines.

With the enactment of RA 11223 otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Law, the Philippines has been achieving substantial progress in improving the health of the Filipinos. The law aims to ensure that every Filipino is healthy and protected from health hazards and risks, and with access to inexpensive, high-standard, and easily accessible health care at all levels of the health system.

Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) declares that every child has the right to the best and most accessible healthcare services. As a State Party to this Convention, the Philippine government is mandated to protect and promote the right to health and instill health consciousness, this is further enunciated in Article II of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that the "right to health is a fundamental principle guaranteed by the State." The state is further obligated to guarantee the right of pregnant women and children to adequate food, care, and nutrition.

The Council for the Welfare of the Children (CWC), as the monitoring body of the country, conducted an online survey for children last February 2023, followed by a validation, "NCM-Children's Brainstorming Session (NCM-CBS), the intention is to cull out the recommendations from children on the focus and theme for the national observances affecting them, which includes the NCM. Through this endeavor, the children were able to propose activities at the national, regional, and local levels.

Relatedly, this year's theme is the result of the consultations conducted. Similarly, it is in line with the National Economic and Development Authority's 25-year vision or the "Ambisyon Natin 2040," which highlighted the country's poor healthcare relating it to the lack of access to medical or healthcare facilities, no support for prevention/maintenance medications with health insurance as PhilHealth only covering a minor portion of hospitalization, and public facilities with no supplies.

In a bid to support this vision, the CWC will leverage National Children's Month as an opportunity to gradually achieve this vision. This will be complemented by the recommendations of the children during the 2023 NCM-CBS with activities that will enable children as rights-holders and parents, families, government agencies, non-government organizations, local government units, academe, and private institutions as duty-bearers to participate in improving the state of health care and nutrition.

This year's NCM will cover four categories of children's rights per week of November, namely: survival rights (1<sup>st</sup> week), development rights (2<sup>nd</sup> week), participation





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rights/national play advocacy (3rd week), and protection rights/juvenile justice consciousness (4th week). Special celebrations for children will also be observed simultaneously:

- **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 led by the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC)

In addition, the CWC will host the following supporting activities:

- a) Social Media Campaign encouraging individuals and organizations to join the online campaign using the 2023 NCM photo frame on Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter in their profile picture, including a customized template caption, which reads, "*Ako si (pangalan), at ngayong #BuwanNgMgaBata. #LusogSaPaglaki ang aking hangad para sa lahat ng bata!*"
- b) #BlueKadaBiyernes Campaign enjoining everyone to wear blue-colored clothing every Friday of November to show support for the month-long celebration, joining organizations are requested to:
  - i. Capture a group photo wearing blue-colored clothing
  - ii. Upload the photo to your organization's official Facebook Page
  - iii. Tag or mention the CWC Facebook Page
  - iv. Use the hashtag #BlueKadaBiyernes in the caption
- c) Panatang Makabata individuals/organizations conducting NCM activities are requested to deliver the *Panatang Makabata* in their opening ceremonies.

In view of the 2023 NCM celebrations, the DepEd Central Office (CO) through the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO), regional and schools division offices, all public and private elementary and secondary schools, and attached agencies of the DepEd are encouraged to undertake the following activities for November:

Activity	Target Participants	Platform/Venue	Schedule
Talakayang Makabata: The 31 <sup>st</sup> NCM Press Conference	Media and duty-bearers	Face-to-Face via CWC Facebook Page	October 24, 2023 9:00AM - 12:00NN
31 <sup>st</sup> National Children's Month (NCM) Kick-off Ceremony	<b>CWC Partners</b>	City Government of Valenzuela	November 6, 2023 8:00AM - 12:00NN



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Development Rights: Launching of Pubmats/Instructional guide for Low-Cost Vegetable Recipes	Children, parents, and care-givers	TBA	TBA
Participation Rights/ National Play Advocacy Week (NPAW)	Children	TBA	TBA
6 <sup>th</sup> Conference on Parenting in the Digital Age	Duty-bearers	Virtual via CWC Facebook Page	November 20, 2023 2:00PM – 4:00PM
Online Learning Session on Health and Protection Rights	Duty-bearers	Virtual via CWC Facebook Page	November 22, 2023 2:00PM – 4:00PM
18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and their Children	Duty-bearers and Rights-holders	TBA	November 25, 2023
31 <sup>st</sup> National Children's Month (NCM) Culminating Ceremony	Duty-bearers and Rights-holders	Face-to-Face TBA	November 28, 2023

In line with the foregoing celebration, the DepEd Central Office through the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO) shall undertake the following activities:

- a. **Kick-Off Program** in Celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month, on November 11, 2023, Saturday at 9:00 am to be conducted live and streamed via the DepEd Philippines and LRPO Facebook pages. The kick-off program shall focus its discussion on the implementation of Republic Act No. 11930 or "An Act Punishing Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC), Penalizing the Production, Distribution, Possession, and Access of Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM)," and its recently enacted Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The topic is intended to address the rising cases of online exploitation in children, as such, we the DepEd LRPO have invited our learners, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to attend the online kick-off program.
- b. **Culminating Program** on November 27-30, 2023, will be conducted, the 4-day session will include a discussion on the following policies:
  - (1) Enhanced Learner Protection Policy





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- (2) Guidelines on the Implementation of the Safe Spaces Act in Basic Education
- (3) DepEd Policy on Child in Situations of Armed Conflict
- (4) Validation for the CPS Manual

The 4-day session aims to bolster the knowledge of our implementers, teaching and non-teaching personnel about the recent issuances dedicated to protecting our learners, and further encourage their advocacy of developing and delivering positive results for our learners' well-being.

Further, in support of the 31<sup>st</sup> NCM, the LRPO has downloaded funds to the DepEd Regional Offices to ensure the conduct of their localized Children's Month activities in line with this year's theme. Guidelines and details on the use of the funds shall be issued to ensure compliance with the accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

Schools and offices are requested to submit a report to document the activities undertaken during the 31<sup>st</sup> National Children's Month. The Reports are required to be submitted on December 22, 2023, to the Learner Rights and Protection Office (LRPO) at email [lrpo@deped.gov.ph](mailto:lrpo@deped.gov.ph)

For more information on the 2023 NCM Celebrations, please contact:

**Atty. Suzette T. Gannaban-Medina**  
OIC-Director, Learner Rights and Protection Office  
DepEd Central Office  
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For guidance and immediate dissemination to the field.