

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 23, 2008

## DepEd joins week-long celebration of Autism Consciousness Week

To give due attention to persons with autism, the Department of Education's Special Education Division (DepEd-SPED) joins the inter-agency week-long celebration of Autism Consciousness Week which will be held from January 20 to 26, 2008.

"We should create conditions that will allow persons with autism to live with dignity and contribute productively to society," Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus said.

With the theme *Hope Abounds...For Individuals with Autism*, this event seeks to mobilize concerned agencies and organizations to provide attention to persons with autism.

Slated is an On the Spot painting contest on January 23 at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Conference Room, sponsored by DENR and DepEd.

Meanwhile, on January 25 at Lagro Elementary School, a free therapy session will be conducted from 8 AM onwards.

These activities will culminate with *Angels Walk for Autism* on January 27, 2008 at the Liwasang Aurora, Quezon Memorial Circle. Interested participants may register at 6 AM and no fees will be collected.

The Autism Society of the Philippines (ASP) and the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) will join DepEd in the celebration. Teachers and heads of special education in public and private schools are also encouraged to participate in the abovementioned activities.

Proclamation No. 711 declares every third week of January as Autism Consciousness Week. With this, the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), together with DepEd, are mandated to come up with means to provide early diagnosis, therapy, education and treatment to persons with autism.

**END**

PRESS RELEASE