



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

13 NOV 2018

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **178**, s. 2018

14th NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education joins the celebration of the 14th National Biotechnology Week (NBW) on November 13–17, 2018 pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1414 (copy enclosed). The Opening Ceremonies will be at 9:00 a.m. on November 13, 2018 at the World Trade Center, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Pasay City. The celebration will focus on the theme National Biotechnology Week: *Pambansang Hamon, Pambansang Solusyon*.
2. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are the national government agencies involved in the crafting of meaningful celebration that highlight the benefits and contributions of biotechnology to agriculture and food security, the delivery of equitable health care service, sustainable environment and the development of industries and the economy.
3. Various activities on biotechnology are prepared to create awareness, as well as educate the public on the importance and benefits of biotechnology. These include fora on various topics, contests and competitions, career talk, research presentations, and agribiotech farmers' congress.
4. Regional directors (RDs), schools division superintendents (SDSs) and school heads are enjoined to organize similar activities in the regions and schools divisions, in collaboration with the heads of field offices of the aforementioned agencies. Expenses relative to the conduct of the activities shall be charged to local funds, subject to the usual accounting rules and regulations.
5. It should be emphasized that the school activities during the celebration of the NBW must not disrupt the contact time between the teachers and learners as stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005, entitled **Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-On-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith**.

6. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary

Encl.:

As stated

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

CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
LEARNERS
SCHOOLS

MCDJ, DM 2018 14th NBW Celebrations
0273-October 22/31/November 12, 2018

(Enclosure to DepEd Memorandum No. 178, s. 2018)

MALACAÑANG
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 1414

**DECLARING EVERY LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS
"NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK"**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Government to promote safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology and its products as one of the several means to achieve and sustain food security, equitable access to health services, sustainable and safe environment, and industry development;

WHEREAS, biotechnology sustains increased crop yields and farm productivity, and enhances the quality, value, and suitability of crops for food and other uses that are complementary to modern agriculture;

WHEREAS, biotechnology is behind many breakthroughs in human health care that have benefited millions of people through the development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other drugs that cannot be made in any other way;

WHEREAS, biotechnology has delivered benefits to our environment including protection of water quality, conservation of topsoil, improvement of waste management techniques, reduction of chemical pesticide usage, production of renewable energy and biotechnology-based products, and cleaner manufacturing processes;

WHEREAS, there are already biotechnology-based industries in the country that would benefit from the week-long advocacy campaign through recognition of their significant public contribution;

WHEREAS, biotechnology has been helping in the speedy and fair administration of justice through forensic DNA analysis and similar DNA technologies;

WHEREAS, biotechnology increases the pace of technology development for medical, agricultural, industrial, and environmental applications;

WHEREAS, public awareness, education, and understanding of biotechnology is essential for the responsible application and regulation of this new technology; and



PDNA Hologram # 42409



WHEREAS, biotechnology, celebrates globally more than a decade of achievements in research and development and its commercial applications in agriculture towards a more healthy and safe use of the products of modern technology.

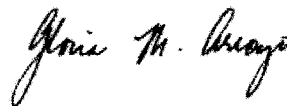
NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the last week of November of every year as "**National Biotechnology Week**".

The Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Education (DepEd) shall compose a National Biotechnology Week Committee to be co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Technology in year 2007. In succeeding years, the co-chairs may be rotated as decided upon by the Committee on a year-to-year basis.

The Committee shall formulate a program for the meaningful celebration of the National Biotechnology Week. They may call upon other government agencies and non-government organizations to assist in its implementation.

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

Done in the City of Manila, this 9th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.



By the President:



EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

