



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 *Putting Baston: Tungo sa Katuparan ng Karapatan ng Mamamayang May Kapansanan sa Paningin*.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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