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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

OUA MEMO 00-1120-0152
MEMORANDUM
11 November 2020

For: **Regional Directors and BARMM Education Minister**
Schools Division Superintendents
Principals and School Heads
Teacher-Advisers and SSP/SSG Officers
Youth Formation Coordinators
All Others Concerned

Subject: **NATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY CELEBRATION ON**
17 NOVEMBER 2020

The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the National Youth Commission (NYC), will conduct the celebration of National Students' Day (NSD) on November 17, 2020. Under Republic Act No. 11369 or the National Students' Act, DepEd recognizes the observance of November 17 of every year as National Students' Day and commemoration of International Student's Day, which was spearheaded by the International Students' Council in 1941.

The International Students' Day commemorates the martyrdom of eight students and their professor who were executed on November 17, 1939 by the German Gestapo in Czechoslovakia for their anti-Nazi demonstrations (*see Annex*). Over 1,200 students were deported to concentration camps. Fifty years later, on November 17, 1989, a week after the fall of the Berlin Wall, 15,000 students demonstrated and marched in Prague demanding democratization and reforms, triggering the Velvet Revolution that led to the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia.

Looking back in Philippine history, Filipino students in 1896 shared the same passion with the martyred Czechoslovakian students of 1939 and the patriotic students of 1989. Our national heroes were also young and have offered their lives for our country and for our freedom (*see Annex*). The nationalist fervor of the Filipino students is imprinted in our history and continues to make marks in different fields towards national development.

With the declaration of a state of public health emergency in the Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and with environmental and



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[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO)]

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social issues, there is a greater call once more for students to use their education to contribute towards social transformation.

In this era of New Normal, students have started to immerse themselves on social media to find hope and ways to become heroes of the pandemic in educating people, tackling misinformation and stigma, lifting the spirits of the frontliners, and letting their voices be heard on various social causes.

Anchored on the DepEd core values Maka-Diyos, Makatao, Makakalikasan at Makabansa, the Bureau of Learners Support Services - Youth Formation Division (BLSS-YFD) will be leading the celebration of the National Students' Day with the theme **Mag-aaral na Pilipino, Palaban sa Buhay Gamit ang Puso, Galing at Talino.**

With this, the regions, divisions, and schools are required to conduct and practice the following activities:

CORE VALUES	ACTIVITY
Maka-Diyos	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observe moment of silence and reflection to pray for our student heroes and for strength to carry on despite all the challenges. 2. Observe mindfulness breathing exercise at home and focus not only spiritually but with self-care.
Maka-tao	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practice Filipino values (e.g. hospitality, generosity) during pandemic 2. Create a poem/ video/ song/ artwork/ blog for frontliners and bravery of the Filipino people during this pandemic and tropical disturbances
Makakalikasan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a blog related to “green ideas” to promote environment protection, and shared online 2. To reduce, reuse and recycle at home 3. Advocate “<i>Gulayan sa Tahanan</i>” 4. Learn something new about climate change online (e.g. lessons, seminars, games, etc.) 5. Maintain eco-efficiency at home (e.g. save water and energy, use less paper at home, and reduce plastic waste)
Makabansa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share your own “My hero story” before and during this pandemic through social media



CORE VALUES	ACTIVITY
	2. Learn the stories of young Filipino heroes (e.g. Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, etc. See <i>Annex</i>); how they used education to capacitate themselves to be agents of change 3. Be involved with different online activities about patriotism (e.g. celebration of Bonifacio Day or Rizal Day, etc.)

Furthermore, students and advisers of the Supreme Pupil Government, Supreme Student Government, Youth for Environment in Schools Organizations, Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Girl Scouts of the Philippines and other campus organizations are strongly encouraged to participate in the virtual celebration of the National Students' Day on **17 November 2020, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM** via DepEd Philippines Facebook Page.

For more information, questions or concerns, please contact **Mr. Adolf P. Aguilar**, Chief of Bureau of Learner Support Services-Youth Formation Division (BLSS-YFD), at 0920-525-9196 or email at blss.yfd@deped.gov.ph.



ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
 Undersecretary



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Annex:

Czech students and professors executed in 1939:

No.	Name	Age
1	Vaclac Safranek	Below 19
2	Jan Cerny	25
3	Jan Weinert	25
4	Bedrich Koukala	26
5	Joraslav Klima	26
6	Marek Frauwirt	29
7	Josef Adame	30
8	Frantisek Skorkovsky	30
9	Josef Matousek	33

Filipino young heroes:

- **Manuel Tinio**, then **18 years old**, joined the Katipunan in 1896. Two years later, at the age of 20, he became the youngest general of the Philippine Revolutionary Army.
- When the Revolution began, **Emilio Jacinto** was only **21**. Youth did not deter Jacinto, after the Supremo's death two years later, from carrying on the struggle in the mountains of Laguna.
- **Gregorio del Pilar** became a general of the Katipunan at age **21**. He had just turned 24 when he fought his last battle as Aguinaldo's rear guard at Tirad Pass in 1899.
- **Gregoria de Jesus** was only **22** when she became Bonifacio's widow. Courageously she fought on for independence.
- **Isabelo de los Reyes** was **25** when he started writing in Ilocano and Spanish against abuses of the colonizers.
- **Jose Rizal** finished his first novel "Noli Me Tangere" at the age of **26**, and the second novel "El Filibusterismo" when he was 30. These two books fired up the Filipino nation against the abuses of the Spanish regime.
- **Emilio Aguinaldo** was the victorious general of the Revolution at age **27**. He



founded the first Republic in Asia on June 12, 1898, three months after turning 29.

- **Andres Bonifacio** founded the Katipunan when he was **29**, and rose up against the Spanish colonizers.
- **Marcelo H. del Pilar** as a lawyer at age **30**, started writing against friar rule in his native Bulacan.
- **Macario Sakay** was **31** when he continued the War of Liberation against the new US colonizers in 1901 to 1904.



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