



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BULACAN

May 7, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 224 s. 2026

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL 2026

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Division Chiefs
Public Schools District Supervisors
Elementary & Secondary School Heads
Adolescent Reproductive Health Focal Persons
School Information Officers
All Others Concerned

1. In line with the Department of Education's commitment to promote health awareness, inclusivity, and community engagement, all schools are hereby enjoined to observe the **2026 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial** on **May 17-18, 2026**.
2. This year's theme, "**Light the Legacy: Remember. Advance. Act. Keeping the Light Alive**" highlights the vital role of peer support in HIV awareness, prevention, care, and advocacy. It emphasizes how shared experiences, compassion, and community connections contribute significantly to addressing stigma and improving the quality of life of persons living with HIV.
The observance aims to:
 - Honor and remember individuals who have lost their lives to HIV and AIDS;
 - Show solidarity and support for those living with HIV;
 - Promote awareness, understanding, and empathy among learners and school personnel; and
 - Strengthen community engagement through peer-led initiatives and advocacy efforts.
3. Schools are encouraged to organize age-appropriate and meaningful activities such as:
 - Candlelight ceremonies or moments of remembrance, offering prayers within their work station, or flag ceremonies



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- Information dissemination campaigns on HIV and AIDS awareness and messages of support using their school facebook page with a hashtag #IACM2026, #OKSaDepEd
- Collaboration with local health offices or community organizations for advocacy programs.

Everyone is reminded to ensure that all discussions, activities and messages are conducted in a respectful, inclusive, and stigma-free environment.

Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are directed.


CECILIA E. VALDERAMA, PhD, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent