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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
REHIYON V (BIKOL)

TANGGAPANG PANSANGAY NG MGA PAARALAN NG LUNGSOD IRIGA

CTRI No. 2026-09-492 Y

September 18, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 492, s. 2026

**CLARIFICATION ON THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF PRIDE MONTH
ACTIVITIES AND GUIDELINES ON ITS OBSERVANCE**

**TO: Asst. Schools Division Superintendent
Chiefs, CID and SGOD
Education Program Supervisors
OIC-Public Schools District Supervisors
School Heads, Elementary and Secondary
All Others Concerned**

1. Relevant to the Unnumbered Memorandum issued by the Office of the Secretary-Department of Education dated September 10, 2026, this Memorandum is issued to provide clarity and guidance regarding the observance of Pride Month and the conduct of related activities, in reference to DepEd Memorandum No. 041, s. 2026, titled "2026 Pride Month Celebration in the Department of Education" and Executive order No. 51, s. 2023, titled "Reinforcing the Diversity and Inclusion Program, Reconstituting the Inter-Agency Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, and Creating the Special Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Affairs.

2. Pursuant to Paragraphs 5 and 6 of DM 041, s. 2026, DepEd offices across all governance levels were "encouraged to organize and implement meaningful and relevant activities" in observance of Pride Month, under the theme, "DepEd's Pride: Where Every Identity Belongs." Hence, it bears emphasis that participation in activities conducted in relation to the Pride Month Celebration was **strictly voluntary** for both DepEd personnel and learners. There is no penalty whatsoever, that was imposed should a learner refuse to participate in Pride Month activities. Accordingly, while the Department continues to uphold its institutional commitment to inclusivity, respect, and non-discrimination in the workplace and learning environment, participation in Pride Month activities was not mandatory on the part of the learners. Rather, such activities were merely intended as avenues for self-expression for those who wanted to participate.



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3. To ensure proper implementation and alignment with the Department's core mandate, field offices and schools shall be guided by the following principles:

- **Protection of Instructional Time and Regular Operations:** Aligned with DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026, titled: "Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education," the participation of schools and offices in any related activities must remain strictly consistent with existing policies on instructional time and learner welfare. It is strictly mandated that such activities shall not, under any circumstances, disrupt the regular conduct of classes, delivery of basic education services, and other educational priorities.
- **Parental and Stakeholder Engagement:** The Department fully recognizes the indispensable role of parents and guardians as primary partners in the education and development of learners. Schools and offices are highly encouraged to foster open communication and meaningful engagement with stakeholders, including parental consultation, in the planning and implementation of any programs and initiatives that may affect learners and their welfare.
- **Flexibility and Context-Sensitivity:** Offices and schools are granted the flexibility to design and implement activities that are age-appropriate, context-sensitive, and highly responsive to the specific needs and values of their learners and communities.

4. The Department remains steadfast in upholding its mandate to provide a safe, nurturing, and learner-friendly environment where all learners and employees are treated with absolute dignity and respect. The Department will continue to implement policies that advance inclusion, prevent discrimination, and support the holistic well-being of every member of the DepEd community.

5. For information, guidance and widest dissemination.

MARIA-MAGNOLIA F. BRIOSO, CESO VI
OIC-Schools Division Superintendent



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