



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

AUG 08 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM  
No. 242 s. 2025

**OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES DAY 2025**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is DepEd Memorandum No. DM-OULS-2025-027 titled Observance of the International and National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025.
2. For further queries, contact Jose Leonardo L. Degillo, Regional IPED Focal Person, at 09289615149.
3. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

  
**RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III**  
Regional Director

Encl.: None

Reference: As stated

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

FUNDs      PROGRAM      REPORTS

RM/CLMD-JLLD-Observance of the International and National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025  
000/August 8, 2025



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR LEARNING SYSTEMS

**MEMORANDUM**

DM-OULS-2025-027

**FOR :** REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
MINISTER, MINISTRY OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION, BARMM

*Carmela C. Oracion*  
**FROM :** CARMELA C. ORACION  
Assistant Secretary *mv*  
Officer-in-Charge  
Undersecretary for Learning Systems  
**SUBJECT :** OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY 2025  
**DATE :** July 28, 2025

1. The United Nations (UN) has declared August 9 of each year as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (IDWIP) and enjoins its member nations to participate in the celebration by conducting activities that promote and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights.
2. In support of this UN celebration, the Philippine government signed Republic Act 10689 into law in 2015, declaring August 9 of each year as the National Indigenous Peoples Day in the Philippines.
3. Recognizing its role in promoting the values of inclusion and respect for cultural diversity in basic education, the Department of Education supports these observances through various activities and events that foster awareness about the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and promote respect for their identities, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and other aspects of their cultural heritage.
4. For 2025, the Department of Education's theme for the International and National Indigenous Peoples Day is "***Ating Pandayin ang Kinabukasan, Gabay ang Katutubong Karunungan at Karapatan.***" This localizes the international theme for 2025, which is "*Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures.*"
5. This localized theme dovetails the international context of this year's celebration that highlights the contribution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in defending the rights and shaping the futures of Indigenous Peoples communities, and the local context of the Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd) Program in DepEd which is in its second decade of nationally coordinated school-level implementation.



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6. With the increasing use of AI in various spheres of human activity, IDWIP 2025 recognizes its potential to contribute to the advocacies of Indigenous Peoples, together with the possible consequences of causing harm on IP communities when misused, abused or manipulated.

7. For DepEd, 2025 is a milestone year as it enters its second decade of strengthening school level implementation of the IPEd Program. This process was commenced in 2015 with the training of regional teams on curriculum contextualization, leading to the progressive development of contextualized lesson plans and learning resources to be used by IPEd implementing schools.

8. This second decade, the IPEd moves forward embracing the challenges of contemporary developments like AI while remembering that through the centuries, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs) that have withstood the test of time, continue to find relevance in a changing world. The continued application and development of these relevant IKSPs in the current times are part of the cultural rights of IP communities that DepEd has committed to uphold. The use of AI and other technologies, when anchored on this commitment, ensures that the younger generations of IPs will continue celebrating, developing and advocating for their cultural heritages, ensuring that inclusion continues to be upheld whatever the future directions of our nation and the world.

9. Guided by the theme and its underlying significance, ROs, SDOs, and schools are enjoined to support the celebration of International and National IP Day for the month of August.

10. Activities organized for these celebrations shall observe the following:

- a. In dialogue with partner IP communities at the school, schools division, and/or regional level, events shall be aligned with the theme discussed and undertaken with cultural sensitivity and appropriateness;
- b. with adherence to DepEd Order 9, s. 2005 or *Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith* to ensure that classes shall not be interrupted, schools are to conduct activities through discussions related to the theme that are integrated into lessons in the appropriate subject areas;
- c. For ROs and SDOs, advocacy activities involving the appropriate DepEd personnel shall ensure continuous classes at the school level as directed by DepEd Order 09, s. 2024 or *Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities for the School Year 2024-2025*;
- d. Hanging of streamers/banners in strategic places in the vicinity of DepEd offices only (an electronic file of the standard layout shall be provided to ROs by Bureau of Learning Delivery-Indigenous Peoples Education Office (BLD-IPsEO); and
- e. Featuring the observance and other IPEd-related activities on



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the website and other communications media of the ROs, SDOs, and schools.

11. DepEd personnel are highly encouraged to maximize the observance as an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of key DepEd policies on IPEd, such as the IPEd Curriculum Framework (DO 32, s. 2015), the implementation of the IPEd Program, as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (online resources are available at <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>).

12. All activities and initiatives related to the International and National IP Day celebration shall adhere to both IP community and national protocols for well-being and safety. It is also reiterated that the planning and conduct of activities are to be guided by the DO 51, s. 2014, *Guidelines on the Conduct of Activities and Use of Materials Involving Aspects of Indigenous Peoples Culture*, which are meant to provide guidance on the ethical assessment of the conduct of learning activities and related engagements of schools, DepEd offices, and other education initiatives, which involve various aspects of Indigenous Peoples' culture. Likewise, field offices and schools are enjoined to consult and collaborate with indigenous community elders and other culture bearers as appropriate in the conduct of activities.

13. To maximize activities in relation to the theme, regions, and divisions are strongly encouraged to consider the conduct of focus group discussions with community elders/leaders/culture bearers, parents, school heads and teachers focusing on the assessment of the IPEd Program's first ten years of implementation and the identification of continuing concerns that need to be addressed in the second decade of the program.

14. ROs and SDOs, through the IPEd Focal Persons, shall ensure the proper coordination of activities and compliance with the guidance provided in this Memorandum. Expenses incurred relative to the conduct of activities shall be charged to IPEd PSF/local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

15. For inquiries, please contact the **Bureau of Learning Delivery- Indigenous Peoples Education Office**, Ground Floor, Mabini Building, DepEd Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City through email at [ipseo@deped.gov.ph](mailto:ipseo@deped.gov.ph) or at telephone number 0977-842-1007.

16. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.