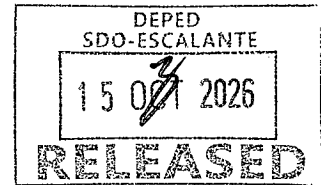




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

NEGROS ISLAND REGION
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF ESCALANTE CITY



October 13, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 473, s. 2026

2026 GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY CELEBRATION

To: OIC - Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
All others concerned
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Teachers-in-Charge
School WinS Coordinators
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is the Memorandum from the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations dated October 4, 2026, titled *2026 Global Handwashing Day Celebration*, relative to the observance of Global Handwashing Day on October 15, 2026, with the theme **"Be a Handwashing Hero."**
2. The virtual celebration will be held on **October 15, 2026 (Thursday), from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**, and will be streamed live through the official DepEd Philippines Facebook Page. All school heads, School WinS Coordinators, teaching and non-teaching personnel, and other concerned stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the virtual program.
3. In support of this celebration, all public and private elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to conduct simultaneous handwashing activities among learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents, and other stakeholders. Schools shall designate an appropriate schedule for the activity on October 15, 2026, ensuring that regular classes and instructional time are not disrupted.
4. School heads and School WinS Coordinators are encouraged to sustain handwashing promotion and proper hygiene practices in their respective schools throughout the year, consistent with DepEd Order No. 10, s. 2016, or the *Policy and Guidelines for the Comprehensive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools (WinS) Program*.
5. Schools may document and share their handwashing activities through their respective official social media pages, using the following recommended hashtags:
#2026GlobalHandwashingDay
#BeAHandwashingHero
#WASHinSchools
#ForTheWinS
#InDepEdWinSEverybodyWins
6. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

PETER J. GALIMBA

OIC- Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.: As Stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:
WinS SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM
PABUAYA / SGOD - SHN



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DepEd Tayo Escalante City



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Republika ng Pilipinas

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

OM-OUGOPS-2026-01-0495

TO:

ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND BARMM EDUCATION MINISTER
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOL HEADS

FROM:

JOCELYN DR ANDAYA

Assistant Secretary

Officer-in-Charge

Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

SUBJECT:

2026 GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY CELEBRATION

DATE:

October 4, 2025

The Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Learner Support Services - School Health Division - Nutrition and Hygiene Unit (BLSS-SHD NHU), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), will spearhead this year's celebration of **Global Handwashing Day** with its multi-year theme, **"Be a Handwashing Hero."** This global initiative is celebrated every 1st of October which aims to raise awareness about the significance of handwashing with soap as a simple yet effective means to prevent diseases and save lives.

The DepEd Order 10, s. 2016 (DO 10, s. 2016) or the **Policy and Guidelines for the Comprehensive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools (WinS) Program**, aims to promote proper hygiene and sanitation practices, and advocates for creating a clean environment in and around schools, ensuring the safety and health of learners. DO 10, s. 2016 is designed to enhance learning and health outcomes while improving learners' attendance through a comprehensive, sustainable, and scalable school-based program for water, hygiene, sanitation, and deworming. This aligns with the State's mandate, as established in the 1987 Constitution, to uphold children's rights to adequate care and nutrition and to protect them from harmful conditions. Additionally, it seeks to promote public health and instill health consciousness within the community.

In this regard, all Regional, Division, and School WinS Coordinators as well as those who champion WASH across settings are requested to participate by tuning in at the broadcast of the event on **October 15, 2026 (Thursday)** from **10:30am to 12:00nn** via the **DepEd Philippines Facebook Page**.

The Regional Offices (ROs) and Schools Division Offices (SDOs) are enjoined to ensure and monitor the participation of personnel and learners to the said virtual program. Refer to **Annex A** for the program details.

Further, the DepEd Regional Offices are hereby requested to:

- select and submit one (1) 3- to 4-minute video presentation of your existing handwashing jingle or WinS-related jingle (only 2-3 regional handwashing/WinS jingle shall be chosen to be broadcasted via the DepEd Philippines FB page).
- encourage Regional Office employees and officials to submit a short commitment video to show support to this year's global theme. For details, please see **Annex B** (Guidelines for recording the requested commitment video presentation of each region).
- conduct simultaneous handwashing among learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents and other stakeholders. Schools shall designate a specific time to conduct the said activity in time for the celebration of Global Handwashing Day on October 15, 2026, ensuring that there would be no disruption of classes. If possible, the schools and/or the School Division Offices (SDOs) may broadcast the simultaneous handwashing activities in their respective Official Facebook Pages. The use of the following hashtags for this event is recommended: #2026GlobalHandwashingDay, #BeAHandwashingHero, #WANItatSchools, #ForTheWinS, #InDepEdWinSEverybodyWins, and
- cross-post the virtual broadcast of the event via DepEd Philippines FB Page.

While the 15th day of October every year is designated as the Global Handwashing Day, the public is encouraged to sustain the initiatives to achieve the objectives of the celebration throughout the year.

Kindly submit the handwashing/WinS Jingles and pledge of commitment video presentation to araceli.mendoza@deped.gov.ph on or before **October 9, 2026 (Friday)**.

For further details, **Ms. Magdalene Portia T. Cariaga**, Supervising Health Program Officer, **Mr. Vonerich B. Herba**, Education Program Specialist II, or **Mr. Dranoel Cyrus C. Bagulo**, Technical Assistant II of BSSS SHD, may be contacted at 8632-9915 or email at araceli.mendoza@deped.gov.ph or herba.vonerich@deped.gov.ph. Attached is the Concept Note for ready reference.

Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

Annex A

“Be a Handwashing Hero!”

15 October 2025 (Thursday) at 10:30 am - 12:00 nn

(A virtual program in support of the 2026 Global Handwashing Day celebration)

Indicative Program

Time	Duration	Session/Topic	Speaker
Preliminaries and Opening Program			
10:30-10:40 a.m.	10 mins	WinS Promotional Video	Playback Video Emcee
		Opening Remarks	Dr. Miguel Angelo S. Mantaring Director IV Bureau of Learner Support Services
		Message	Roger B. Masapol Assistant Secretary for Governance and Operations Education Governance
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the Lens of Public School System			
10:40-11:00 a.m.	20 mins	Spotlighting the Gains of the Philippine WASH in Schools (WinS) program and Updates on the Handwashing Initiatives in the Public School Setting	Dr. Miguel Angelo S. Mantaring Director IV Bureau of Learner Support Services
Clean Hands, Safer and Healthier Learning Institutions			
11:00-11:20 a.m.	20 mins	The New WHO Global Guidelines on Hand Hygiene: What do they mean to WASH in Schools (WinS) program in the Philippines	Mr. Jon Michael Villaseñor UNICEF WASH Officer
Nutrition and Hygiene Unite: #FortheWinS			
11:20-11:40 a.m.	20 mins	Linking Nutrition and Hygiene for Better Health	Ms. Elmira Bacatan UNICEF WASH Officer
Promoting WASH Behaviors in Schools Through Engaging Jingles			
11:40-11:50 a.m.	10 mins	Presentation of WASH Jingles of Selected Schools	Emcee AVP
Closing Program			
11:50-12:00 nn	10 mins	Pledge of Commitment	Atty. Jephie Sengul and Central Office
		Closing	Emcee



DepEd Division Office - Marikina City
DepEd Marikina City
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