

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)
Manila

March 5, 1976

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
No. 63, s. 1976

OPERATION: PHILIPPINE PRICELESS TREES

To the: Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents

1. In view of the unusual long life of some trees, we may have in our communities ageless and priceless trees which must be preserved because of their civic and historical values, and therefore can become tourist attractions.
2. In the interest of tourism and environmental education, the Tree Preservation Foundation of the Philippines, Inc., composed of education officials and civic-minded citizens has been conducting Operations: Philippine Priceless Trees for the purpose of preserving trees that have cultural and educational significance.
3. To further promote this worthy project, this Office suggests that pupils/students in your respective divisions be encouraged to cooperate by looking for historic trees, ancient trees and/or giant trees. Inclosed is a detailed description of such trees and the supporting data needed for each tree.
4. The Tree Preservation Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. is interested in expanding its membership. Those interested to join may write to:

The President
Tree Preservation Foundation
of the Philippines, Inc.
6th Floor, Kalayaan Bldg.
Salcedo St., Makati, Rizal
(Tel. No. 86-75-30)

5. In view of the educational value of Operations Philippine Frisbees Trees, it is requested that this Department Memorandum be given wide publicity.

(SGD.) JUAN L. MARTIN
Secretary of Education

Incl.:

As stated.

Reference:

N e m o

Attachment: 7-2-(D.O. 1-76)

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

BUREAU and OFFICES
CAMPUS
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
OFFICIALS
PROJECTS
SCHOOLS
STUDENTS

OPERATION: PHILIPPINE PRICELESS TREES

What to look for:

Looking for these trees and preserving them is a very laudable mission for all of us, especially for school children. This can be made a very fruitful educational project.

Among the trees to look for are the following:

1. Historic trees -

- a. Must be living at the time and growing at or very close to the site where an important historical event took place (such as trees at battle sites during the 1898-1900 revolutionary years, trees that offered shade to the Death Marchers to Capas, trees at site of treaties, surrenders, etc.),
- b. Must be planted or cared for by a historic or high personage, or named after such a personage (such as those planted by Dr. Jose Rizal and the national heroes of his era, those planted by past presidents of the Philippine, etc.).

2. Ancient trees - Must be preferably over 100 years old, (such as those planted or living since the Spanish regime).

3. Giant trees - Must have a trunk not less than 400 centimeters in circumference (or about 150 cms. in diameter). The circumference or diameter should be measured at breast height (135 cms. above ground level); if the tree has a buttress, the measurement should be taken immediately above the buttress; if the trunk is irregularly shaped, the diameter should be the average of the widest and the narrowest diameter measurements; the height must be measured (or estimated) from the butt of the tree at the ground level to the tip of the crown.

Note: In all categories, the trees may be of any species, that is, forest trees, fruit trees, shade trees or ornamental trees.

Supporting data needed for each tree:

Location of tree: Street _____
Site of _____
Barrio of _____
Municipality of _____
Province of _____

Photographs: Include at least two (2) photographs of the tree, one a long shot and the other a close-up; to provide comparative size, it is preferable to photograph the tree with a person standing by the tree trunk.

Sponsor or locator:

Name (in block letters) _____
Name (signature) _____
Position _____
Address _____

Tree verified by:

Name (in block letters) _____
Name (signature) _____
Position _____
Address _____
Date _____

It is suggested that as much historical details be submitted, such as the role of the tree (perhaps a lookout of Katipuneros, a bivouac place, a shelter or refuge of our revolutionaries, a favorite tree of a post, etc.). Interviews with old residents nearabouts could yield surprising information.

Confirmation of information:

Final confirmation and verification of information furnished will be made by the Tree Preservation Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. and the National Historical Institute.

Official bronze markers will be provided for each tree substantiated.

Where to send the information:

Data, photographs and other information on each tree should be sent to the Director, Bureau of Elementary Education through the Regional Director of the province, Department of Education and Culture. Arrangement has been made for passing these data to the Tree Preservation Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.