

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

February 10, 1978

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
No. 49, s. 1978

SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Chiefs of Services and Heads of Units
Coordinator, State Colleges and Universities
School Superintendents
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges
and Universities

1. Pursuant to the National Plan of Action for the Decade of the Filipino Child (1977-1987) launched by President Marcos in 1976 which specifies that the mentally retarded "should be provided with social services to the extent that they can develop their maximum potentials," the 1978 Regional Special Olympics will be held on March 4 and 5, 1978 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, Malate, Manila.
2. Mental retardation is a condition characterized by limited intelligence (I.Q. of 80 or below), slowness in capacity to learn, and difficulty in adapting to the demands of daily living, whose most obvious characteristic is repeated failures in school or inability to cope with the demands of the regular school for reasons other than poor health or personality disturbances.
3. There are more than 1.4 million mentally retarded children and adults in the Philippines, and approximately 30,000 more are born every year. Between 2 to 5% of students attending the regular elementary schools, and even in the high school level are retarded, which accounts for most of our school dropouts. Moreover, special classes for the mentally retarded have already been set up in some, but not all, school systems.
4. The special olympics program aims to give the mentally retarded a chance to develop their skills, experience success, and grow both physically and mentally through an organized program of physical fitness and competitive athletics.
5. There is a need for colleges and universities to mobilize their psychological, social work, education and medical departments in order to identify which children are certified as qualified to join the special olympics program. Those with physical education and recreation departments should cooperate with existing agencies in training coaches and in developing programs for these children in their respective localities.

6. All schools and institutions with any significant number of mentally retarded are encouraged to organize special olympics clubs; to operate and maintain year-round programs of physical training; and to participate in holding local, municipal, provincial, regional and national special olympics meets.

7. All schools, institutions, and special classes within Regions IV and V, including Quezon City, that are operating programs for the mentally retarded are urged to prepare their athletes for participation in the 1978 National Special Olympics. In connection with such preparatory activities, there are enclosed application forms, parent permit, medical release entry forms, guidelines, including a schedule of clinics being held in Quezon City, Metro Manila for the benefit of coaches, teachers and volunteers in charge of training athletes for the 1978 National Special Olympics. Teachers handling special classes, principals of special schools and regional/division supervisors in charge of special education are also invited so that they may be guided in the replication of Special Olympics in their respective regions.

8. No registration fee will be charged but each delegation will be responsible for its transportation expenses and subsistence during the Meet. Snacks, hospitality gestures, entertainment and souvenir items will be given free by the Organizing Committee, 1978 National Special Olympics.

9. Travel expenses of teachers and other school officials will be charged against local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

10. The special olympics program is sponsored internationally by the Kennedy Foundation. It is organized by representatives of the Department of Education and Culture, Department of Youth and Sports Development, Department of Social Services and Development, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and several civic and service organizations. It is coordinated by the Special Child Study Center Foundation.

11. Immediate dissemination of the contents of this Department Memorandum to all concerned is urged.

(SGD) LUIS V. MENDOZA
Secretary of Education and Culture

Incls.:

As stated

Reference:

Note

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(A.C. 1-78)

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

ATHLETICS
BUREAUS & OFFICES
OFFICIALS
SCHOOLS

SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHERS
UNIVERSITIES and COLLEGES