

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

July 20, 1978

MEC M E M O R A N D U M
No. 200, s. 1978

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM THRUSTS
FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1978-1979

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

1. In answer to society's demand for education that will meet the social and individual needs of the greater number of the country's population, the Bureau of Elementary Education sets the following objectives for the school year 1978-1979:
 - a. Upgrade pupil achievement particularly in literacy, numeracy and thinking skills;
 - b. Provide opportunities for all children of school age to obtain an education;
 - c. Retrieve school leavers and keep potential dropouts in school;
 - d. Expand the special education program;
 - e. Update school plant facilities and equipment; and
 - f. Upgrade competencies of teachers, supervisors and administrators.
2. To attain these objectives, projects have been developed for implementation. Brief descriptions of these projects are enclosed.

3. This Office welcomes innovative strategies in implementing the projects as well as innovative programs designed to achieve the objectives for SY 1978-1979. It is hoped that this information will pave the way for better articulation and coordination of projects and programs.
4. Each region is requested to include a brief account of achievements under each thrust in its quarterly report.
5. It is desired that this Memorandum be given the widest publicity possible.

(SGD.) JUAN L. MANUEL
Minister of Education and Culture

Incl.:

As stated

References:

Department Memorandums: Nos. 198, s. 1977 and
26, s. 1978

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

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

Course of Study, ELEMENTARY
PROGRAM, SCHOOL
PROJECTS
REPORTS

The following projects have been planned to achieve the above objectives:

1. For Upgrading Pupil Achievement Particularly in Literacy and Numeracy Skills.

- a. The Elementary Education Experimental Program has been approved by the NEE. It will be implemented on a tryout basis for 2 years beginning SY 1978-1979 in at least one complete elementary school in all divisions in each region. Orientation of school teachers, supervisors and administrators involved in the program has been started. Instructional materials supportive of the project are already in the final stages of printing and will be distributed at the opening of the school year.

- b. Operation "Return to the Basics"

The project aims to upgrade pupil achievement in reading, language and mathematics which should involve development of thinking skills. It also aims to strengthen attitudes and habits which are essential to effectiveness as a citizen such as work-related attitudes and habits, citizenship skills, etc. The regions are encouraged to prepare prototype instructional materials to suit pupils with varying abilities and to continue re-training their teachers in order to upgrade their competencies in teaching these subjects. Evaluation of achievement from time to time is emphasized. Regions and divisions are expected to develop their own evaluation program.

- c. Pilot Learning Centers in Depressed Areas

These centers are planned as permanent facilities in selected places preferably in the depressed areas of our country. They are expected to provide for both formal and non-formal education to children as well as to adults.

The learning centers shall be equipped with reading materials, technological facilities, instructional materials such as self-learning kits, tools and equipment which may be needed for learning. The facilities will grow according to the needs of the clients.

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The center can very well serve learners whose skills have been accredited and found equivalent to certain grade levels, but who, in view of their age, could not attend regular classes. In this center out-of-school learners may borrow self-learning materials and take tests to determine whether they can progress to higher-level materials. A teacher will have to be trained to manage the center.

d. Preparation of Prototype Instructional Materials and Tests, Scripts for Radio Broadcasts

This project derives from the results of researches conducted by the Bureau of Elementary Education for policy formulation. As soon as needs are identified by the researchers, prototype will be prepared and distributed to the regions for possible use in the schools, in the training of teachers, and in the teaching-learning process.

2. Retrieving Children Who Left School/Keeping Children in School Till They Complete Grade Six

Projects "Stay" and "Balik-Aral" are twin approaches directed towards retrieving school leavers and keeping potential dropouts in school until they finish Grade Six.

3. Providing Opportunities for Children of School Age to Get an Education.

a. Countryside Approach to Literacy

The regions are encouraged to prepare instructional materials designed to develop understanding and appreciation of our culture. Such materials shall be unique to the place in terms of customs, practices, folk songs, stories, etc. These materials shall be prepared in easy reading forms like comic strips, picture stories, etc., multiplied and offered for use by other regions through a delivery system known as a "mobile library".

3. Improving, Maintaining and Providing Adequate Plant Facilities and Equipment

a. Provision and Maintenance of Adequate and Sanitary Health Facilities

The project aims to utilize the initiative and leadership of the school officials and teachers in getting the cooperation and support of the community agencies, both public and private, including civic-spirited citizens as well as the youth and adult community leaders in providing and maintaining adequate and sanitary health facilities in every school. Included in the program shall be the cleanliness and beautification campaign which shall be a cooperative venture of the school and the community.

b. Repair and/or Construction of School Buildings

This project envisions the use of the self-help and bayanihan approaches. Many school buildings which are in need of major/minor repairs could be repaired instead of waiting for the government funds to come, which in some instances may not be available at all, resulting in further deterioration of the school buildings.

1. Promoting Special Education Projects.

a. Vision Screening Program for Partially-Seeing Children

The tremendous impact of an eye defect on the learning process and personal adjustment in and out of the school shows the urgency of establishing a vision screening program.

Vision screening is only one part of a well-rounded eye health program. It has three basic elements:

- (1) direct health services
- (2) education of both parents and children
- (3) provision of a healthful environment

The project includes screening and follow-up; carefully planned policies and education in the prevention of eye accidents; a comfortable and healthful environment in which lighting is adequate in quantity; medically approved first aid procedures and special education facilities and teaching services for children who have limited vision. Pilot classes will be organized in the division of Rizal.

b. Expansion of Special Classes for the Gifted and Mentally Retarded

1. In keeping with the National Plan of Action in Education, the expansion of the project for the gifted has been assigned to discover giftedness at the start of the elementary schooling of the child instead of the usual program in the upper primary level.

The project includes early identification, and adjusted/enriched curriculum, enhancement of talents through classroom, co-curricular activities and provision of learning experiences that will maximize the capacities of the gifted child.

2. The mentally retarded children are now being drawn "out of their shells" so to speak. Where before they were either left to fend for themselves or closeted at home, mentally retarded children are now trained to be self-sufficient and be a contributing member of both his family and the community.

The project places great emphasis on vocational training, an adjusted program designed to suit the limited mental capacities of the mentally

