

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

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MEC M E M O R A N D U M
No. 16, s. 1981

REDUCTION OF ATTITUDINAL BARRIERS AGAINST THE DISABLED

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

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations declared 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons.
2. The major problem to be solved during this celebration is the existence not of the disabled but rather of the "handicaps" that the society creates for the disabled.
3. One "handicap" that prevents disabled persons from developing their capacities and playing their full part in the development process on an equal footing with all the other members of their respective communities is society's attitudes and behavior toward them.
4. Accordingly, the IYDP Philippine National Plan of Action has designed to achieve as one of its objectives the intensification of the reduction of attitudinal barriers against the disabled.
5. In this connection, every division, school, college and university, public and private, is hereby enjoined to conduct any of the following suggested activities to help realize the objective:
 - a. Conduct a local survey on the attitudes of disabled persons toward themselves and attitudes of family and community toward the disabled to serve as basis for succeeding programs of activities.
 - b. Establish a reference on the nature and strength of potentials and interests of disabled persons through a prepared report on work evaluation, job preparation and placement assistance for the disabled.

- c. Hold dialogues with school officials and teaching staff re educational opportunities denied or restricted of the disabled.
 - d. Organize demonstration sessions/workshops/open house with disabled persons performing a variety of tasks or jobs.
 - e. Inform the public regarding grants-in-aid program coordinated by the local government, voluntary organizations and cooperative groups.
 - f. Solicit aid of specialists like an industrial physician in informing the public of the matching capacities of the individual with physical demands of disabled and/or in changing the myths or beliefs concerning certain diseases like Hansen's disease (leprosy).
 - g. Disseminate information regarding an intensification program of community education for better appreciation/interpretation of programs, and services.
 - h. Assist in the expansion of the network of community-based services for the disabled utilizing community resources and involvement.
 - i. Hold community assembly to convince the public of the rights of the disabled and help them within the context of cultural stream and positive emotional climate.
 - j. Organize a "reach out" program for potential clientele and potential supporters through Barangay Pulong-Pulong.
6. Activities other than those suggested above but which are contributory to the objective may also be undertaken.
7. It is desired that a report on the result of the activities undertaken be submitted to this Office on or before October 31, 1981.

(SGD.) ONOFRE D. CORPUZ
Minister of Education and Culture

Reference: N o n e
Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
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SCHOOLS

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