

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

March 5, 1981

MBC M E M O R A N D U M
No. 50, s. 1981

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

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

1. The year 1981 was proclaimed by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in 1976 as International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) with the keynote theme: "Full Participation and Equality."

2. The proclamation aims to focus attention particularly this year on the rehabilitation of the estimated 450 million people who suffer from some form of physical or mental impairment. Five principal objectives for the Year were set out in the General Assembly resolutions, as follows:

- a. Helping disabled persons in their physical and psychological adjustment to society;
- b. Promoting all national and international efforts to provide disabled persons with proper assistance, training, care and guidance, to make available opportunities for suitable work and to ensure their full integration in society;
- c. Encouraging study and research projects designed to facilitate the practical participation of disabled persons in daily life, for example, by improving their access to public buildings and transportation systems;
- d. Educating and informing the public of the rights of disabled persons to participate in and contribute to various aspects of economic, social and political life;

- e. Promoting effective measures for the prevention of disability and for the rehabilitation of disabled persons.

3. Another principal objective of IYDP is to further the implementation of the 1971 Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons and the 1975 Declaration on the Rights of the Disabled Persons, both of which were adopted by the UN General Assembly.

4. Relevant information and activities for the celebration are inclosed to this Memorandum and each institution as given self-determination to plan appropriate activities congruent with the needs of the locality.

5. Institutions affiliated to the National Federation of Unesco Clubs and Associated Schools in the Philippines (NFUCASP) are encouraged to take the leadership in undertaking realistic projects for disabled persons in the community. A list of these schools is inclosed in DEC Memorandum No. 184, s. 1976.

6. A plan of action for the regional, provincial, municipal, district and school levels should be carefully organized in order to increase public understanding of what disabilities are, the problems they bring, as well as recognizing the distinction between impairment, disability and handicaps.

7. Activities may include seminar workshops for school officials and teachers, mass media campaigns, setting up committees to coordinate activities and review programmes, services, safety rules, customs and other relevant regulations to ensure that the needs of the disabled are met. Adequate involvement of the disabled themselves should be maximally implemented through self-reliance projects.

8. Reports on special projects observed during the year particularly by the NFUCASP, supported by pictures, should reach the Office of the National Research and Development Centre for Teacher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture, on or before December 31, 1981.

9. It is desired that all concerned extend full support and cooperation to the IYDP to ensure its success.

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

Incl.:

As stated

References:

DEC Memorandum: (No. 134, s. 1976)
MEC Memorandum: No. 16, s. 1981

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

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

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVAL
SCHOOLS
SOCIETY or ASSOCIATIONS
SPECIAL EDUCATION

(Inclosure to MEC Memorandum No. 50, s. 1981)

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

Rationale:

The UN General Assembly has decided that 1981 should be the International Year of Disabled Persons so that governments, organizations and groups of individuals around the world may increase their efforts to help the handicapped of hearing, vision, mental and motor disabilities participate fully in the life of the community through self-reliance activities.

Handicapped people must not be regarded as a group apart whose needs are different from those of the rest of the community, but as ordinary citizens with special difficulties. Therefore, societies have an obligation to make their physical environment, social and health services, education and work opportunities, as well as cultural and recreational facilities accessible to the disabled.

Suggestive Program of Action:

1. Analyze critically national legislations concerning the disabled and pass resolutions to remove all barriers and discriminatory practices which affect their education and employment.
2. Review programmes for the disabled in such areas as preventive measures, early diagnosis and treatment of handicaps, rehabilitation, special education, vocational training and employment opportunities and recommend professional and technical personnel needed to be specially trained for the purpose.
3. Improve the living and working conditions of the handicapped people and their integration into society by providing better access to education, places of work and recreation, and adapting buildings to meet their social needs.
4. Support the United Nations and its agencies by reinforcing technical cooperation in prevention and rehabilitation programmes for the disabled persons.
5. Help the handicapped to effectively organize themselves so as to make their views heard and be able to actively participate in the work of policy-making bodies.

6. Give orientation seminars for school officials on how to be aware and alert in early detection and intervention of probable handicap symptoms of children. It is estimated that preventive as well as early intervention measures could reduce the number of disabled by as much as 50 percent.
7. Create programs on how to assist disabled people help themselves in developing their creative abilities and fulfilling themselves according to their inclinations and talents. It should be mentioned that renowned people like Beethoven was deaf, Milton was blind, and Franklin D. Roosevelt was paralyzed.
8. Organize multidisciplinary research activities linking socioeconomic development with physical and mental development on the effects of nutritional needs of children or protein calorie deficiencies and malnutrition, suffered by some 100 million children which can be major causes of death, brain damage and other physical and mental defects.
9. Initiate studies on how the medium of dance and music could be used to help the handicapped.
10. Encourage research activities on disabled persons who distinguished themselves by their unusual achievements not only on the national level but gained recognition the world over.

Cultural Activities:

1. Plan a series of activities to encourage participation of disabled people in cultural life and develop their creative talents which may include theatre, dance and music workshops, as well as training seminars for specialists.
2. Organize an art and cultural exhibition prepared by the dumb, the deaf and the lame such as making posters, painting, sculpture, ceramics, wood carving and the like.
3. Present a literary and musical contests on the theme: "The problems faced by the handicapped."

For further particulars write to:

United Nations Information Center for the Philippines
NEDA Building
Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati, Metro Manila

For Unesco documentation on special education, apply to:

Special Education Unit
ED/SCM
Unesco
7, Place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris (France)

For free copies of the Unesco Braille Courier, contact:

The Editor
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7, Place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris (France)

For other Unesco programmes, write to:

Office of Public Information
Unesco
7, Place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris (France)

For general information on IYDP, apply to:

IYDP Secretariat
Centre for Social Development and Humanities Affairs
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna (Austria)

For UN Publicity material, apply to:

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United Nations
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