

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
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MECS M E M O R A N D U M
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HOLDING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE
CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Cultural Agency Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities
Vocational School Superintendents/Administrators

1. The month of September, 1985 has been declared as National Youth Month by the President of the Philippines under Proclamation No. 2310, issued on September 14, 1983, in connection with the observance of International Youth Year. It may be recalled that Resolution No. 34/151 of the United Nations General Assembly designated 1985 as International Youth Year, with three distinct themes: "Participation, Development, Peace."

2. In connection with this observance, all schools, colleges and universities, public and private, are enjoined to conduct school-wide symposia on current issues and problems affecting the youth, such as drug abuse, adolescent sexuality and other related social problems, and to initiate, develop and implement other relevant programs or measures and activities to be undertaken during the celebration of the International Youth Year with the active participation of the youth and involving governmental and non-governmental sectors.

3. Inclosed is a material on the theme which may be used as basis for the planning of activities in observance of National Youth Month and International Youth Year.

4. Regional directors are requested to submit a report on the observance of National Youth Month by schools in their respective regions.

(SGD.) JAIME C. LAYA
Minister

Incl.:

As stated

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

SOCIETY or ASSOCIATIONS

PUPILS

STUDENTS

REPORT

PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE
OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

Participation means taking an active part, sharing in common with others, being included in a decision-making process and assuring responsibility for those decisions and for putting them into effect. Participation also implies that a person is recognized as potentially able to judge and decide on matter concerning his or her life and is given the opportunity to do so as a member of a social group. It further implies that a person is aware of this opportunity and has the possibility of taking advantage of it. Participation in society can take a variety of forms such as participation in public life, in production, in social change and in development which are all central to democracy. Its participation is not to be limited to a small group, it must be extended to people from lower strata. It is at this level that young people learn to participate and, if they are given the opportunity to do so, learn to become active and productive citizens.

Development can no longer be assessed in terms of economic growth. Important as such growth is, development is a much broader and more complex process than merely the achievement of economic growth. Criteria for successful development policies are the fair share of economic growth received by the majority of the urban and rural population. Development goals are expressed in terms of the progressive reduction and eventual elimination of malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, inequality and other symptoms of poverty. There must be a focus on greater social justice, equitable distribution of income and services, an emphasis on integrated rural development, opportunities for employment and fulfillment for all people, and concern for the quality of life and the values that make life worth living which would enhance the role of youth in society. Development policies and programs that would effectively attack the problems of poverty and directly benefit the great masses of low-income people must not only provide them with basic material needs, but also with opportunities to advance and to share in the determination of their own future.

Peace is an essential prerequisite for life itself and for the future of youth and, indeed, because of the threat of atomic war, of mankind. Armed conflicts, the arms race and other obstacles of international and regional peace and security have obvious negative effects on the development process. Young people, who have a major stake in the future, can be instrumental in the achievement of international peace goals. Hence, there is a vital need to educate youth in the spirit of peace and of humanism, friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation.

Among the social problems confronting the youth today, juvenile delinquency, adolescent sexuality and drug abuse are the issues of immediate concern.

Studies reveal that the factors behind these social problems include limited opportunities for the development of positive social and moral values, socioeconomic status, sub-standard housing, poorly educated and unskilled parents, unwholesome relationships with parents and absence of either or both parents as a result of separation or death.

