

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Manila

January 6, 1987

MECS MEMORANDUM
No. 2, s. 1987

GUIDELINES FOR POPULATION POLICY FORMULATION
AND PROGRAM DIRECTION

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

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, enclosed are a copy each of the Guidelines for Population Policy Formulation and Program Direction; Population Policy Statement; and Towards a New and Responsive Population Policy, from the Commission on Population.
2. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is desired.

(SGD.) LOURDES E. QUISUMBING
Minister

Incls:
As stated

Reference:
None

Allotment: 1-2-3-4-(M.C. 1-87)

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

POPULATION EDUCATION
PROGRAM, SCHOOL

**GUIDELINE FOR POPULATION POLICY FORMULATION AND PROGRAM
DIRECTION***

1. The Basic Population Policy should:

be aimed at improving the quality of human life, enhancing the welfare of the family and of the nation in general;

be respectful of human rights and of the freedom of each family to exercise responsible and intelligent choices on whatever affects their family life in particular and that of the community at large;

be truly supportive of the principles of non-coercion, integration, private and public sector partnership, unacceptability of abortion and of other repressive and prescriptive measures and practices;

utilize instead motivational and persuasive means, taking personal beliefs and cultural values into consideration, in educating couples towards responsible and planned parenthood;

2. POPCOM's role should be towards

a coordinating, policy-making, planning and monitoring function.

3. Program Strategy

Information, education, and motivation should be community-based, utilizing NGOs equipped to do the work, with the support of government agencies concerned or involved in these activities.

Align program strategy, services, projects and activities with basic policy, so that there is no contradiction between policy and practice.

* As approved by the Board of Commissioners at its 1st Special Meeting held last Sept. 10, 1986.

(Inclosure No. 2 to ECOS Memorandum No. 4, d. 1987)

DRAFT
POPULATION POLICY STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the Philippines Population Program, designed to enhance the welfare of families has the ultimate aim of contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of Filipino people;

WHEREAS, to attain this objective, the program promotes the concept of responsible parenthood as a way of life;

WHEREAS, in the promotion of planned responsible parenthood, the Program must at all times consider the rights and corresponding obligations and the freedom of each family to exercise responsible and intelligent decisions on whatever affects their family life in particular and that of the community in general;

WHEREAS, to attain satisfactorily its purpose and objectives, the program will continue to be guided by the policies of non-coercion, integration, private and public sector partnership, and non-acceptability of abortion and or other measures and practices inconsistent with policies;

WHEREAS, in educating couples towards planned responsible parenthood, the program must utilize persuasive informational and motivational means that take personal beliefs and cultural values into consideration;

WHEREAS, the program should go beyond the conventional family planning approach to influence fertility behavior and initiate other interventions within the framework of social and economic

DRAFT

POPULATION POLICY STATEMENT

reforms, such as opportunities for women participation in development thus enabling the population to create new norms of family and community life more favorable to the attainment of program goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Population Program in the promotion of planned responsible parenthood, the program must at all times consider the rights and the freedom of each family to exercise responsible and intelligent decisions on whatever affects their family life in particular and that of the community or general; to satisfactorily attain its purpose and objectives, the program will continue to be guided by the policies of non-coercion, integration, private and public sectors partnership, non-acceptability of abortion and other repressive and highly prescriptive measures and practices; in educating couples towards planned responsible parenthood, the program must utilize persuasive informational and motivational means that take personal beliefs and cultural values into consideration; the program should go beyond the conventional family planning approach to influence fertility behavior and initiate other interventions such as opportunities for women participation in development within the framework of social and economic reforms, thus enabling the population to create new norms of family and community life more favorable to the attainment of program goals.

TOWARDS A NEW AND RESPONSIVE POPULATION POLICY UNDER THE AQUINO GOVERNMENT

Basic Policy Framework

Operational Framework

(As per POPCOM Board Meeting of
10 September 1986)

The basic population policy should:

1. Be aimed at improving the quality of human life, enhancing the welfare of the family and of the nation in general

- 1.1. As one of the development programs of the government, the Population Program has the ultimate aim of helping improve the quality of life of the individual, who is the center and the end of all development efforts.

The population policy should be broader than conventional fertility reduction/family planning policy, and should be formulated within the framework of social and economic reform thus enabling the population to create new norms of behavior of family and community life more favorable to the attainment of Program goals.

The Program will continue to pursue family planning within the context of family welfare, which is the state of well-being of the family and its individual members as a result of the satisfaction of certain basic needs. Enhancing the welfare of the family will ultimately lead to the enhancement of national welfare.

- 1.2. The individual has the basic right to adequate health, nutrition, housing, education, employment, etc. which the State has the obligation to provide. The individual has also the right and duty to form a family and to freely and responsibly plan his family. The exercise of the latter enhances the individual chances of achieving family welfare

3. The practice of responsible parenthood through child-spacing and family size limitation would help parents to properly rear and pro-

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- 1.7. Improvements in the level of women's education, health and increased economic opportunities influence their fertility behavior and facilitate welfare. The Program should therefore support efforts to enhance the role and status of women in economic and social endeavors.
2. be respectful of human rights and of the freedom of each family to exercise responsible and intelligent choices on whatever affects their family life in population and that of the community at large;
 - 2.1. The Program recognizes and safeguards the rights of parents to responsibly plan their families. In respecting this right, the Program provides full information and services that would enable parents to arrive at informed and voluntary decision according to their conscience and religious beliefs. By ensuring the availability of both information and services the Program thus ensures the freedom of choice of the individual.
3. be truly supportive of the principles of non-coercion, integration, private and public sector partnership, unacceptability of abortion and of other repressive and prescriptive measures and practices.
 - 3.1. The Program adopts strategies and measures that are non-coercive, that are in consonance with the moral convictions and religious beliefs of the individuals.
 - 3.2. Population is a long-term concern and a principal element in national planning. As such, it cannot be viewed in isolation from other development concerns. Therefore, government agencies will continue to integrate the population dimension into their policies and program to help bring about the attainment of Program goals.
 - 3.3. The private sector will share with government the responsibility of attaining the objectives of the Program. Thus, meeting population objectives are effected through the coordinated partnership among many participating agencies, both government and non-government organizations.
 - 3.4. The Program does not promote abortion.
4. utilize motivational and persuasive means, taking personal beliefs and cultural values into consideration, in educating couples towards responsible and planned parenthood.
 - 4.1. Relative to 2.1. and 3.1. the Program will educate couples towards responsible and planned parenthood, utilizing motivational and persuasive means with due regard for the personal beliefs and cultural values of the individual.



5.1. It is to the national interest to eventually stand on its own in the promulgation of a people-powered population program. The cost of meeting population objectives should be considered a national responsibility and the use of indigenous technology in implementing the Program should become a national priority. Self-reliance should be a Program policy.

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