

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Maynila

April 21, 1987

DECS MEMORANDUM
No. 82, s. 1987

1987 OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

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

1. The Department of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the United Nations Information Center for the Philippines, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and other related agencies will coordinate the observance of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) as proclaimed in 1982 by the United Nations General Assembly.

2. Its main objective is to improve the shelter and neighborhood of urban and rural homeless and poor in developing countries and to formulate national shelter strategies and build demonstration-housing to meet shelter requirements of the year 2000.

3. The aims of the IYSH are:

- a. to focus world attention on the plight of all those who today live without a roof over their heads and on the conditions of squalor and insecurity;
- b. to create a worldwide awareness of the nature of the problem of inadequate shelter and services affecting so many people as well as possible solutions;
- c. to disseminate information to those involved in the provision of shelter and services, particularly the results of significant policies and projects;
- d. to highlight the political, economic, and social organization and technical aspects of this problem;
- e. to sound an advanced warning to the international community of the looming crisis of unprecedented dimensions facing the cities of the developing world; and

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3. to generate commitment of government, international and aid agencies, non-governmental organizations and local communities and the people to specific programmes to meet this challenge.

4. By the year 2010 approximately 3.62 billion people out of 6.99 billion are expected to be living in absolute poverty, with inadequate shelter and services in urban areas than in rural areas, especially in developing countries.

5. The provision of adequate shelter and services to such a phenomenal population and the management of these fast growing cities are some of the greatest problems facing developing countries today.

6. In view of the serious significance of the IYSH, all schools, colleges and universities, particularly those who are members of the United Nations Association of the Philippines, the National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools project on education for international understanding, cooperation and peace, are strongly urged to take the leadership in organizing meaningful projects and activities relevant to the celebration.

7. Enumerated hereunder are suggested activities which may be made more interesting by teachers through cooperative group work of the class and with related organizations in the community

- a. Class discussion on the importance of housing and different kinds of housing;
- b. Surveys of local housing like: number of houses in the barangays, number of people living in each; availability of clean water and sanitation facilities, like toilets, drainage, garbage disposal, etc.;
- c. Analysis and interpretation of the data gathered in relation to the inhabitants living in each barangay;
- d. Oratorical poetry, essay or theme writing competition on any of the following topics:
 - "My Ideal House"
 - "Encouraging Rural People to Stay at Home and Cultivate Their Lands"
 - "New and Effective Solutions to Shelter Problems"
 - "Improving Shelter Conditions of the Homeless, etc."
- e. Picture-drawing, poster-making or painting contests on concepts or ideas concerning IYSH.

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- f. Exhibit, on drawing, paintings and other finished articles prepared by children or students;
- g. A teaching-learning lesson on the value of shelter for the urban and rural homeless and poor people;
- h. Discussions on how the government is servicing the growing population such as: managing urban growth; providing land for housing; providing low-cost safe water system and garbage disposal; offering low interest rates on housing to low- and middle-income groups; using indigenous materials, products and technology; and building housing projects which generate employment to the jobless; and
- i. Convocation programs and inviting resource speakers to talk about problems and prospects for the homeless, and other related concepts.

8. It is desired that linkages with government and non-government organizations in the community be established to get their full cooperation and support that would contribute to a successful attainment of the objectives.

9. Reports on activities undertaken during the celebration including photographs should reach this Office through the Executive Assistant's Office on or before December 31, 1987. These will be forwarded to the United Nations, New York through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

10. For further reference contact:

The Director
United Nations Information Center
106 NEDA Building
Araullo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati, Metro Manila

11. It is urged that this Memorandum be given wide publicity to enable as many administrators, supervisors, teachers, pupils and students to extend full cooperation to this year's celebration.

(SGD.) EDUARDO R. QUISTIBING
Secretary

Reference:

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

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