



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS

Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

April 18, 1997

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DECS MEMORANDUM  
No. 142, s. 1997

ENHANCING THE MULTIGRADE PROGRAMME IN PHILIPPINE EDUCATION (MPPE)

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors (Except Regions I, III and NCR)  
Schools Superintendents

1. The Multigrade Programme in Philippine Education (MPPE) as one of the major strategies of this Department to improve access and quality elementary education, has continuously gained foothold in all concerned DECS regions as shown by the increased enrolment in almost all multigrade schools as well as the cooperation of parents and the community in activities designed to improve learning among multigrade (MG) class children.

2. To further enhance the service offered by multigrade schools, the DECS with support from the UNICEF has implemented a pilot program called the "Multigrade Demonstration Schools Project" (MDSP) starting the school year 1996-1997 (Batch 1) in six (6) school divisions such as Ifugao and Benguet - DECS CAR, Antique and Guimaras - DECSRO VI, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur CARAGA. A complementary project "Pupil Learning Enhancement Program for Multigrade classes (PLER-MG)" was also launched in 1995 by DECS with fund support from UNDP. The project aims to improve pupil performance in multigrade classes through the provision of Multi-level Materials (MLMs) and development of community support schemes.

3. Starting the school year 1997-1998, the DECS will implement enhancement interventions for the MPPE, to wit:

- a. Expansion of the MDSP (with fund support from UNICEF) in the district where the existing Batch 1 (1996-1997) pilot schools are located, and in 6 additional divisions (Batch 2) such as Masbate - RO V, Negros Oriental - RO VII, Leyte and Southern Leyte - RO VIII, Zamboanga del Sur - RO IX, and Cotabato - RO XII.
- b. One-week refresher training (with fund support from UNICEF) for trainers, teachers, principals and district supervisors in 13 non-MDSP provinces; Kalinga and Apayao - RO-CAR, Cagayan - RO II, Palawan and Quezon - RO IV, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon - RO V, Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar - RO VIII, Zamboanga del Norte - RO IX, Davao Oriental - RO XI, and Maguindanao - ARMM.

- c. Field implementation of the UNDP supported PLEP-MG in four (4) provinces - Surigao del Sur, Negros Oriental, North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur. The major activities to be undertaken are training of multigrade teachers, para-teachers, and piloting of community support schemes.
  - d. Construction of one 3-room school building (with fund support from Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc.) in selected multigrade schools in the Divisions of Misamis Occidental and Agusan del Sur.
4. In preparation for the MDSP expansion program, the following activities will be undertaken:
- a. Selection of two demonstration schools in each of the additional 6 divisions by officials from the Bureau of Elementary Education and UNICEF during the first week of April 1997.
  - b. Conduct of two-week training for teachers, school administrators, district supervisors and division supervisors from the six (6) divisions such as Masbate, Negros Oriental, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Cotabato on April 21 to May 2.
5. In the 13 non-MDSP provinces assistance for the conduct of the following will also be provided by UNICEF:
- a. Refresher training for a maximum of five trainers at the Community of Learners Foundation (COLF) on May 13-17. The five core trainers will include the following:
    - 1 Regional Chief Elementary Education Division or Regional Multigrade Coordinator
    - 2 Division Supervisors preferably the Division Multigrade Coordinator and one Division Trainer
    - 2 District Supervisors with the most number of multigrade classes under their supervision, or whoever the Division nominates as most qualified multigrade trainers.


The trained trainers are expected to prepare a division training plan including the schedule of 1-day follow-up workshops end-July, September and November with proposed topics/areas for discussion. They are also expected to arrange for echo training upon return from training preferably in summer before classes began on June.

b. Joint training of multigrade teachers, their principals and district supervisors to be conducted by the trained trainers. Each of the 13 divisions will directly manage the multigrade training with assistance from the regional EED Chief (or Regional Multigrade Coordinator). Instead of implementing the regular multigrade training, the revised training design prepared during the trainers' training at COLF will be implemented in the 13 provinces.

There will be 40 participants who will come from 4 districts, each with at least 10 multigrade schools. Whenever possible, the participants should come from complete multigrade schools so that together with its teachers, principal and district supervisor, the school should comprise 5 participants.

c. Monitoring and Supervision. Each school division will plan for a 1-day follow-up workshop per district by end-July, September and November. Each district workshop would consist of the 10 participants from the district and 1 of the trainers. The objective of the follow-up workshops is to address the teachers' needs which include, but not limited to simplified lesson planning, effective use of the MLC-MG/BOW, an application of strategies and approaches discussed in the Multigrade Teachers Handbook.

6. Immediate dissemination and compliance of this Memorandum is desired.

  
RICARDO T. GLORIA  
Secretary

Reference: None

Allotment: 1-2--(M.O. 1-87)

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

OFFICIALS  
PROGRAMS  
PROJECTS  
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