



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
UL Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig, Metro Manila



Sama-Sama
sa DECS

September 22, 1997

DECS MEMORANDUM
No. 372, s. 1997

THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO "MOVE ON"

To : Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries
Regional, Staff Bureaus, Center & Service Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Heads of Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. A statement of H.E. President Fidel V. Ramos regarding the prayer rally at Luneta, homily of Cardinal Sin and statement of former President Aquino and excerpts from the President's arrival statement at Villamor Air Base on 21 September 1997 particularly when he speaks of "preparing our youth to adequately cope with the challenges of the future" are hereby reproduced for the information and guidance of the entire family of DECS.
2. It is desired that our schools look at these recent events as opportunities for teaching our schoolchildren the lessons of responsible citizenship and enlightened leadership. Moreover the values of love, respect and tolerance as well as of trust and faith in our leaders may be reaffirmed.
3. For widest dissemination.


ERLINDA C. PEFIANCO

Undersecretary
Officer-in-Charge

Incls.: As stated
Reference: None
Allotment: 1--(D.O. 50-97)
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

BUREAUS & OFFICES
EMPLOYEES
OFFICIALS

"Quality Education Towards Philippines 2000"

Statement of H. E. President Fidel V. Ramos
Re: Prayer Rally at Luneta, Homily of Cardinal Sin and
Statement of Former President Aquino
Malacañang, Manila
September 21, 1997

First of all, let me thank the Filipino people for coming out and exercising their sovereign right to assemble peacefully and to be heard. Also, my commendations go to our law enforcement people, principally the PNP which was assisted by the AFP, and our local government officials who exerted their utmost efforts to protect the people and prevent malefactors from doing any harm.

On behalf of our people and our Government, let me also congratulate and thank former President Corazon C. Aquino and His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin for their messages for reconciliation, humility, forgiveness, and unity. The declaration of Cory Aquino that our economic health has been restored is most appreciated because it does give the correct signal to all that the nation is not really in crisis, and that the Philippine house is not "burning" as some opinion-makers have been insisting of late.

All of us are happy that the prayer rallies at the Luneta and everywhere else were carried out. This is a manifestation that democracy in our country is very much alive, and protected by both government and people.

One point, however, should be clarified. It is not true that your President has been changing his mind constantly on the issues related to charter change. On the contrary, in my several State of the Nation Addresses (SONAs) and Ulat-sa-Bayan reports since 1992, the latest being last July 28, 1997, I have been consistent in my vision for the nation (Philippines 2000), our plan of action to achieve social, economic and human development during my term of office (Philippine Development Plan for 1992 - 1998) and our long-range strategy for sustainable development (Pole-Vaulting into the 21st century).

Above all, let us thank the Almighty for keeping us peaceful, united and free. Surely, we shall be truly deserving of His blessings and bounty if we help ourselves more, perform our duties better, and prepare our young Filipinos more effectively for the challenges of competition and modernization.

So, let us go back to work and move on!!

AN EXCERPT FROM: OUR PRAYERS FOR A BETTER LIFE - Arrival statement of His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos from visits to the Russian Federation, Kuwait, the Czech Republic, and Republic of Australia via General Santos and Davao Cities to Lead the Peace and Consultation Rally, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, M.M. 1000H 21 September 1997

PREPARING OUR YOUTH

But the long-term success of all these efforts will largely depend on how our youth are prepared to be truly competitive in the world market.

The industries of the twenty-first century are those that are based on knowledge -- information and communications technology, biotechnology, services -- and our labor force and those who will join it later must be adequately equipped with such knowledge.

Towards this end, we have taken steps to upgrade the skills of our people, especially our young ones, to enable the worker, his or her company, and the nation to survive and flourish.

Government alone, however, cannot prepare all the people for the future. The entrepreneurs, foundations and religious orders running our many private schools must re-set their priorities and re-shape their educational programs for the requirements of the new millennium. This is a moral responsibility that we owe to our children and our community.

This is a vital part of our focusing on the 21st century.

Let us, therefore, avoid exploiting our power over our children to conscript them for our partisan political causes. Let us stop infusing into them the worst aspects of Philippine politics which, unfortunately, is divisive in nature. Instead, let us prepare our youth to adequately cope with the challenges of the future.

This I would want to be my legacy to our country.

Certified correct:

Salvacion U. Ballestamon
SALVACION U. BALLESTAMON
Chief, MPPD