



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
Meralco Avenue, Pasig, Metro Manila

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 30, 1998

DECS MEMORANDUM
No. 41, s. 1998

ENSURING THE USE OF IODIZED SALT IN THE SCHOOLS AND HOMES

**To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau/Centers/Services Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Vocational Schools Administrators
PTCA Officials**

1. In support of Republic Act 8172 otherwise known as ASIN (Act in Promoting Salt Iodization Nationwide) Law signed on December 20, 1996; and of the policy direction of this Department to improve the health and nutritional status of the school children for quality basic education, the Health and Nutrition Center is hereby directed to give special focus to the prevention of iodine-deficiency disorders (IDD). Iodine deficiency in the body causes irreversible mental retardation, sluggishness, goiter, and reproductive failure; hence the importance of its prevention, as it directly affects the physical and intellectual development of children, specifically the school age group.

2. The following strategies should be operationalized to strengthen the advocacy and use of iodized salt in the schools and homes; as well as to put into action the Memorandum of Agreement between DECS and Salinas Foods, Inc. signed on May 23, 1997 during the National Educators' Congress re: Adopt A School Program :

- a) Use of FIDEL Iodized Salt in the preparation of foods in the canteen and foods for the Lunch/Breakfast Feeding Program;
- b) Teachers' cooperatives shall become a major source of supply of the FIDEL Iodized Salt; from where the members of the community shall buy the commodity;
- c) Intensified advocacy on the use of FIDEL Iodized Salt shall be undertaken. Promotional campaigns such as slogan/poster/jingle contests and a wrapper redemption scheme may be conducted jointly by DECS and Salinas Foods, Inc. in order to create full awareness on the campaign;

d) Formal and informal teaching of the messages on the importance of using iodized salt should be conducted. The Modules on Micronutrient Malnutrition Prevention and Control for Integration in the Elementary Curriculum may be reproduced for distribution to the teachers;

e) Involvement of the PTCA in the campaign; and ensuring that all mothers use iodized salt in food preparation in the homes.

3. All directors and school administrators are enjoined to give full support to this campaign to ensure that the children's learning capacities will not be adversely affected by micronutrient malnutrition.

4. All regional/division health and nutrition units/sections shall become the lead offices in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this campaign; reports of which shall be integrated in their quarterly reports submitted to the Health and Nutrition Center, this Department.

5. Wide dissemination and compliance of this Memorandum is desired.


RICARDO T. GLORIA

Secretary

1/27

Reference:

None

Allotment: 1--(D.O. 50-97)

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

CAMPAIGN
HEALTH EDUCATION
NUTRITION EDUCATION
SCHOOLS