



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education



DepED MEMORANDUM
No. 234, s. 2008

MAY 02 2008

PLANTING OF MALUNGGAY TREES IN SCHOOLS

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents

1. Malunggay (*Moringa Oleifera*) is considered one of the world's most useful and nutritious plants and are propagated for human food, livestock, medicine, dye and water treatment. Gram for gram, malunggay leaves contain 7 times the vitamin C found in oranges, 4 times the calcium and 2 times the protein found in milk, 4 times the vitamin A found in carrots and 3 times the potassium found in bananas. No less than the President and the Department of Agriculture advocate the planting of malunggay trees nationwide as an answer to hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.
2. In support to the Food for School Program and the "Gulayan sa Paaralan" Project of the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program (AHMP) and, more importantly, to sustain in-school feeding of children with low-cost nutritious foods, school administrators should encourage the planting of malunggay trees in the schools and communities through integration in Science classes and school community outreach projects. These trees will become ready sources of ingredients for various malunggay-based recipes being developed and standardized by the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC), in close coordination with other government and non-government agencies involved in the promotion of malunggay as food commodity. The recipe book will be distributed and serve as guide to home economics teachers, canteen managers, and PTCA members in the preparation of nutritious foods for in-school feeding and for the families.
3. Regional directors are enjoined to lend full support to this initiative. Scientific researches likewise show that malunggay trees are sources of olea oil and biofuel and as such, these trees have the potential of becoming an alternative source of income for the schools in the future.
4. Pursuant to agreements between DepED and the Department of Agriculture on this concern, close collaboration shall be made with the regional and provincial offices of the Bureau of Plant Industry for their technical assistance to plant propagation, processing of malunggay leaves and fruits for food, and for the provision of seeds/seedlings/stem cuttings to the schools.
5. School health personnel are instructed to initiate an information campaign on the benefits of malunggay and to assist the schools in their effort to plant malunggay trees and utilize its leaves in their areas of responsibility.
4. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


JESLIA LAPUS
Secretary

Reference:

N o n e

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

HEALTH EDUCATION
NUTRITION EDUCATION

Madel:c:Planting of Malunggay
4-16-08