

Republika ng Filipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Maynila

July 23, 1984

MECS ORDER
No. 36, s. 1984

UTILIZING VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION
FOR DEREGULATION PURPOSES

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

1. Pursuant to Part III, Chapter 3, Sec. 29 of the Batas Pambansa Blg. 232, otherwise known as the Education Act of 1982, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports shall encourage programs of voluntary accreditation for institutions which desire to meet standards of quality over and above the minimum required for State recognition. It is likewise the policy of the Ministry to utilize voluntary accreditation in aid of the exercise of its regulatory function. For this purpose, however, it is essential that there be a common meaning of the concept of accreditation and of the status of being accredited, for both of which a common set of processes and standards would be essential. Toward this end there shall be organized a single national accrediting body.

2. The Ministry, however, recognizes the pioneering work and the efforts of the accrediting agencies now federated under the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) namely, the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACU-COA), and the Association of Christian Schools and Colleges Accrediting Agency (ACSC-AA). In the light of this recognition, a strengthened Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) shall serve as the transitory body while it organizes and makes operational the one national body within a period of one (1) year from the issuance of this Order, although this period may be extended to a maximum of another year.

3. It is also the intent of the Ministry to encourage among educational institutions a continuing quest for excellence. Toward this end and pursuant to Part III, Rule IV, Sec 2b of the Implementing Rules of Batas Pambansa Blg. 232 and to Resolution No. 66 of the Regular Session of the Batasang Pambansa passed on January 19, 1982 otherwise known as the National Development Plan, 1983 to 1987, a scheme for progressive deregulation of qualified educational institutions/programs shall be established.

4. For purposes of progressive deregulation and the grant of other benefits, educational institutions/programs shall be classified into four levels. In addition to the eligibility requirements specified in Part III, Rule IV, Sec. 3 of the Implementing Rules of the Education Act, the minimum requirements prescribed for each level is as follows:

- a. Level I - institutions/educational programs which have at least undergone a preliminary survey visit and are certified by the FAAP and subsequently, by the single national accrediting agency, as being capable of acquiring an accredited status within one or two years.
- b. Level II - institutions/educational programs which have at least been granted an initial accredited status by any of the current member agencies of the FAAP and whose status is certified by the latter and subsequently, by the single national accrediting body.
- c. Level III - educational institutions/programs which have at least been re-accredited and has demonstrated leadership in the community and/or in a given area(s) of disciplines. The list of these educational institutions/programs shall be certified and submitted to the Ministry by the national accrediting body earlier referred to in this Order provided that during the period of transition and on a case to case basis, the FAAP may certify these educational institutions and programs.
- d. Level IV - tertiary educational institutions which have distinguished themselves in a broad area of academic disciplines, in enjoying a prestige and authority comparable to international universities; provided, that said institutions assume the task of redirecting the growth of and assisting schools in a given field or in a given geographic area. Said schools shall be recommended to the Ministry by the national accrediting body according to the criteria defined in this Order.

5. Benefits: Progressive deregulation will involve limited administrative deregulation for Level I, tuition and full administrative deregulation for Level II, and curricular deregulation for Level III. Level IV will involve the grant of annual subsidies for programs of qualified tertiary educational institutions for the period or duration of its accredited or re-accredited status, subject to approval of fund appropriations as part of the national budget process.

- a. Level I - Limited Administrative Deregulation. Exemption from compliance with Ministry - prescribed administrative operational requirements, such as, approval of class and teacher's programs, trimestral or semestral submission of enrolment lists, and reports of promotion of students. Form IX may also be submitted without the previously required supporting documents.

b. Level II - Tuition and Full Administrative Deregulation.

- (1) Priority in terms of available funding assistance for scholarships, library materials, laboratory equipment and other development items and activities from the government;
- (2) The right to use on its publication or advertisements the word "ACCREDITED" pursuant to law and Ministry policies and rules;
- (3) Financial deregulation, that is, deregulation of tuition and other school fees and charges;
- (4) Limited visitation, inspection and/or supervision of Ministry supervisory personnel or representatives; and
- (5) Authority to graduate students from accredited courses or programs of study in the levels accredited, that is, tertiary, secondary and elementary, without prior approval of the Ministry.
 - (a) The school head must furnish the Regional Director of the region where the school is situated a copy of its certificate of accreditation.
 - (b) Within two weeks after the graduation exercises, the school shall submit to the Regional Director concerned an alphabetical list of the graduates by courses, accompanied by a certification under oath signed by the school registrar certifying that the students therein listed (1) have complied with all the requirements of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports for their respective course, (2) were conferred their respective certificates or degrees on a specific date, (3) have full and complete scholastic records, and (4) that their Form 137 for high school and Form IX for college are in the custody of the school. This list shall be sufficient basis for issuing special orders, if yet necessary.
 - (c) The school will be held fully liable for the veracity of the records without prejudice to any and all such legal action, including revocation of government recognition, as may be called for under the circumstances.
 - (d) The Ministry reserves the right to cancel and/or revoke the graduation of any student whose records are found to be fraudulent.

- c. Level III - Curricular Deregulation, that is autonomy in relation to the academic and curricular aspects and general administration of educational programs or courses of studies; hence, Ministry-authority and eligibility to operate classes in all of the institution's accredited programs.
 - d. Level IV - Refer to paragraph 5.
 - e. Other Benefits.
 - (1) University Status. In addition to other requirements specified by law and other Ministry issuances, no university can be established or a college converted to a university or the corporate life of an existing university renewed after it has lapsed according to law unless its degree programs in Arts and Sciences and four other programs are accredited provided that two of these four programs have the highest enrolment in the institution.
 - (2) The listing of the benefits of accreditation in the preceding paragraphs does not in any way restrict this Ministry from providing additional benefits in the future which it may consider necessary or proper under the circumstances.
6. Schedule of Deregulation.
- a. Upon the effectivity of and subject to the conditions prescribed in this Order the benefits attendant to the deregulated status for Levels I and II and for Level III, on a case to case basis, shall be extended to the educational institutions/programs which qualify under paragraphs 5a 5b and 5c
 - b. Subject to the conditions prescribed in this Order the benefits attendant to Levels III and IV shall be extended to educational institutions/programs which qualify under paragraphs 5c and 5d as soon as the national accrediting body is operational.
 - c. Educational institutions/programs that have been accredited by any of the agencies named in paragraph 2 shall retain and enjoy the benefits attendant to their levels for the duration of the term or period of their accredited or re-accredited status subject to such rules and regulations as may hereafter be issued by this Ministry.

7. This Order supersedes previous regulations on the matter, specifically Bureau of Private Schools Circular No. 10, s. 1967; Circular No. 2, s. 1968; Memorandum No. 87, s. 1967; Memorandum No. 42, s. 1968; and Rule IV, Section 6a of the Rules and Regulations for the Implementation of Batas Pambansa No. 232.

8. Immediate dissemination and implementation of this Order is desired.

(SGD.) JAIME C. LAYA
Minister

References:

BPrS Circulars: (Nos. 10, s. 1967 and 2, s. 1968)
BPrS Memorandums: (Nos. 87, s. 1967 and 42, s. 1968)

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

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

Course of Study, COLLEGIATE
SOCIETY or ASSOCIATIONS
UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

Additional subject to be
inserted in the Perpetual
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ACCREDITATION