



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

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DepEd ORDER
No. 33, s. 2003

APR 29 2003

YOUTH SMOKING PREVENTION (YSP) PROGRAM

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. In line with the Republic Act 8749 known as Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, the Department of Education (DepEd) prohibits smoking and the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products inside public and private school campuses, buildings, offices, including the premises and buildings of the division, regional and national offices. Said campuses, premises, buildings and offices shall be declared as "No Smoking Areas" or "Zones of Health".
2. Hence, the DepEd through the Center for Students and Co-Curricular Affairs (CSCA) and the School Health and Nutrition Center (SHNC) spearheads the Youth Smoking Prevention (YSP) Program. All public and private schools, division and regional offices shall implement this program.
3. Topic on Smoking Prevention shall be integrated in Health Education and be part of the Student Council agenda or other school-related activities.
4. Enclosed are the background/rationale, legal bases, projects, activities and directives, responsibilities and sanctions of the program.
5. For further information and coordination regarding the Youth Smoking Prevention (YSP) Program, please get in touch with the CSCA c/o Mr. Joey G. Pelaez, CSCA Executive Director, G/F Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City or through telefax nos. 631-8495 or 636-3603 or the SHNC at telephone no. 633-7245.
6. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Order is directed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edilberto C. de Jesus".

EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS
Secretary

Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

DECS Order: No. 63, s. 1998

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

HEALTH EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
PROJECTS
RULES AND REGULATIONS
STUDENTS

Rhea/Sheila, MPPD, DO YSP
04-08-03

YOUTH SMOKING PREVENTION (YSP) PROGRAM

1. *Background/Rationale*

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the world's first international treaty on health, was concluded by nearly 170 countries in a global bid to quit a habit that kills almost five million people a year. The pact seeks to tackle the devastating consequences of tobacco use and exposure to smoke with measures ranging from a halt to advertising to a ban on cigarette sales to minors.

The treaty, of which the Philippines is a signatory and which will come into force once forty (40) signatory countries have formally ratified it, declared that the spread of the tobacco epidemic is a global problem with serious consequences for public health that calls for an effective, appropriate and comprehensive international response.

In the home front, youth smoking proves to be very alarming in the wake of revealing current statistics on the extent of youth below eighteen (18) years old who actually smoke or whose health have been precariously endangered by exposure to tobacco smoke. More often, for young people, cigarette smoking is a precursor to drug abuse and other vices.

2. *Legal Bases*

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.

Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, prohibits smoking inside public buildings or enclosed public places.

3. *Declaration of Policy*

Pursuant thereto and especially where schoolchildren and youth are immediately and dangerously affected and disadvantaged, it is the policy of the Department of Education to prohibit smoking inside public and private school campuses, buildings, offices, including the premises and buildings of division, regional and national offices. Said campuses, premises, buildings and offices are declared as NO SMOKING AREAS or ZONES OF HEALTH.

4. *Projects, Activities and Directives*

In connection, the following initiative and directives must be taken into consideration:

- 4.1 All schools and offices are directed to implement projects and activities to increase awareness of the YSP program campaign and strengthen projects and initiatives in maintaining smoke-free campuses, premises, buildings and offices.
- 4.2 All schools, buildings and offices are required to post big 'NO SMOKING' notices or other campaigns in at least five (5) conspicuous places.
- 4.3 All schools, buildings and offices shall post a copy of this Order in bulletin boards and information counters.

- 4.4 All schools are enjoined to establish YSP clubs or other organizations similar thereto, conduct and/or attend symposia, workshop and training relevant thereto.
- 4.5 YSP projects, activities and campaigns shall be made an integral part of the program and projects of the Student Government Organization.
- 4.6 Cigarette smoking and tobacco use shall be a ground for disqualification for student membership in any school clubs or organizations.

5. *Responsibilities and Sanctions*

The following duties and responsibilities shall also be taken into account:

- 5.1 Monitoring of compliance with the policy on non-smoking and non-sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products, reporting violations of the same, and providing sanctions shall be the main responsibility of the school or office head.
- 5.2 School Teachers and Department Heads, and Education Supervisors in Health shall assist the school or office heads, respectively, in monitoring and reporting violations. They are also designated as coordinators of the DepEd in the implementation of projects and activities relative to the Youth Smoking Prevention (YSP) program.
- 5.3 At the central office, the Administrative Service shall have the duty of monitoring compliance and reporting violations of the policy on non-smoking and non-sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products, including the posting of appropriate notices within the compound.
- 5.4 DepEd personnel and students found violating this Order shall be subject to proper administrative and disciplinary sanctions.