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JUN 20 2006

DepED MEMORANDUM

No. 231, s. 2006

ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHOOLBUILDINGS' STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY  
AND STABILITY (ASSIST) NATIONWIDE

To: Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents

1. The Philippines is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. At the end of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000), the Philippines was still at the top of the list of countries hit by disasters, as recorded by the Center for Research and Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) in Belgium. This is because the Filipinos often times respond to disasters reactively and has the tendency to neglect to pay attention to root causes of vulnerability especially the most vulnerable ones – the schoolbuildings.

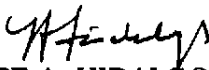
2. There are about fifty thousand schools nationwide which are considered the second homes to about twenty million students. Though there are interventions like repair and maintenance of these structures, there was no assessment whatsoever on its structural integrity. Some of these structures were built during the pre-war and post-war periods like the Gabaldon Buildings and Army Type Buildings. Magsaysay type, Marcos type, Bagong Lipunan type, RP-US Bayanihan, ESF Building, and Imelda type dates back from 1860's to 1986. Considering the average life span of ten to fifteen years, the wear and tear effects and most of all – fatigue, it is obvious that most of these existing schoolbuildings are now for demolition and worst are not safe for occupancy. At a slight tremor all these buildings might collapse and the school children will be the most vulnerable to risks and accidents.

3. In view of this, the Department of Education (DepED) through the Physical Facilities and School Engineering Division (PFSED) will conduct a nationwide assessment of the structural integrity of schoolbuildings and other structures being used for classroom instruction.

4. The assessment aims to provide safe, stable and secured learning environment to the schoolchildren and prevent any building from further deterioration through periodic assessment and inspection in terms of its structural strength, stability and load bearing capacity. Specifically, the assessment will:

- a. Identify schoolbuildings that are not safe for occupancy and recommend demolition or major repair/rehabilitation as the case may be;

6. All regional and division offices are enjoined to provide the necessary assistance in the conduct of ASSIST nationwide to facilitate immediate and smooth implementation of the project. Outputs of ASSIST will be safe, stable and secured teaching-learning environment which will result to the improvement of teachers' performance and achievement level of the schoolchildren.
7. All activities relative to the conduct of the assessment will be led by Task Force ASSIST (see enclosure) created for the purpose of facilitating the smooth, efficient and effective implementation of assessment activities nationwide, consolidating and encoding assessment reports, conduct of project monitoring and evaluation and information dissemination of outputs. Clarifications and queries about ASSIST may be directed to the Task Force through tel. nos. (02) 633-7263 and (02) 637-6464.
8. Travel expenses of the regional and division participants during the Roadshow on ASSIST shall be charged against local funds while hotel accommodations, food, extra duty expenses and honoraria, provision of learning kits and materials shall be charged against the Engineering and Administrative Funds of the Schoolbuilding Program subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
9. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
FE A. HIDALGO  
Undersecretary  
Officer-in-Charge

Encl.:

As stated

Reference: None

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

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

COMMITTEES  
PROJECTS  
SCHOOLBUILDINGS

**TASK FORCE ASSIST**

**(Assessment of Schoolbuildings' Structural Integrity and Stability [ASSIST])**

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