



Office of the Secretary

DepED MEMORANDUM
No. 432, s. 2006

DEC 19 2006

TULOY ANG PASKO NG MGA BATA
(A Christmas Outreach Project)

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

1. THE PROJECT

In accord with the Christmas season and in line with the instructions of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Department of Education is spearheading a simultaneous/synchronized Christmas outreach program nationwide dubbed as "Tuloy ang Pasko ng mga Bata" on December 23, 2006.

2. OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to brighten up the holiday season through various activities in keeping with the spirit of Christmas in the Philippines especially since the country has been ravaged by natural calamities and man-made disasters just recently. Specifically, it aims to make children of poor families experience the joy of Christmas just like other more fortunate kids. It also hopes to encourage others to share their resources to the less-fortunate in the atmosphere of total giving and genuine generosity.

3. CONCEPT

The Central Office and each of the Regional and Division Offices shall organize various activities to celebrate Christmas among the poorest communities pre-selected by the concerned office. At least one community shall be selected by each office where all the children of poor families, or a number of them, whether in-school or out-of-school, shall be gathered.

Although various activities may be included, the following, however, must form part of the celebration:

Community Prayer

This should depend on the religious affiliation of the children-participants. A Holy Mass or a religious service must be held before any other activities to emphasize the meaning of the celebration. This should be participated by all the children-participants together with their parents.

Entertainment Program	A program should go hand in hand with the celebration. This must involve the children-participants, teachers and students and other DepEd officials in the program itself. Parlor games and other competitions related to the Christmas season with prizes participated by the children-participants should be included in the program. Local entertainers can also be tapped to lead the festive mood.
Gift-Giving	This may be done during the program or after lunch or snack time. Only the children-participants shall be given gifts which may be toys, grocery packs, clothes or combination thereof.
Medical/Dental Outreach	This must be held simultaneously with the entertainment program.
Lunch/Snack	The outreach projects should be capped with a lunch or snack where all the participants partake of the food prepared for the purpose.

4. OPERATIONALIZATION

The Central Office and each of the Regional and Division Offices shall create a committee which shall be tasked to implement this directive. Regional Directors and Schools Division/City Superintendents and their assistants, with the help of the School Principals, shall personally lead the planning, preparation and implementation of this project. The local community shall be invited and asked to help in identifying children-participants and in making the celebration a success.

5. FUNDS

Funds for the purpose shall be sourced from the MOOE savings of each office or from PTCA funds, School Canteen proceeds or solicited from the Local Government Units or the private organizations subject to the accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

6. REQUIREMENTS

Each of the Regional and Division Offices shall submit a report of their compliance with this directive on or before January 15, 2007 direct to the Office of the Secretary. It shall include details on the conduct of the project, including a report on the expenses and pictures, and the list of the recipients.

The project should be widely publicized and its implementation should be known to the local media, representatives of which must be invited.

During the project implementation, a streamer following the text/design below shall serve as the backdrop during the program:

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

and the entire

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAMILY

present

TULOY ANG PASKO NG MGA BATA
(*A Christmas Outreach Program*)

7. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum is hereby enjoined.



JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary

Reference:
None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

BUREAUS & OFFICES
 CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
 EMPLOYEES
 OFFICIALS
 SCHOOLS