

[MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 36, March 31, 2003]

AMENDING MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 71 DATED SEPTEMBER 07, 1993 BY CHANGING THE TITLE TO STRENGTHENING THE RESOLVE FOR THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;

WHEREAS, the State is also mandated to encourage non-formal, informal and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs:

WHEREAS, it is likewise essential to recognize the distinct needs of indigenous people to become literates and pursue continuing education that will specifically reflect their unique culture and preserve existing beliefs, customs and traditions;

WHEREAS, the period from 1990-1999, by virtue of Proclamation No. 480, series 1989. had been declared as the "Decade of Education for All" which seeks to universalize literacy the year 2000 and beyond;

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the UN Literacy Decade for the period 2003-2012 towards the goal of Education for All; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen and intensify government, non-government and private sector efforts to deliver literacy services and related interventions particularly to those depressed, disadvantaged and underserved areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

1. The Literacy Coordinating Council shall serve as the national advisory and coordinating body to provide overall policy and program direction to the country's literacy efforts and to spearhead the movement for the universalization of literacy in the country in view of the United Nations Resolution No, 56/116 Section 3 which *"reaffirms the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, in which commitments were made to achieve a 50 percent improvement in levels of adults literacy by 2015 and to improve the quality of education"*.
2. The Department of Education shall lead and coordinate government's efforts in identifying the needs and priorities of the government's literacy programs and projects.