

[LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS No. 1488, December 10, 1985]

DIRECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR TESTING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE.

TO: The Minister of Education, Culture and Sports
The Minister of the Budget
The Chairman, Commission on Audit
The Executive Director, National Educational Testing Center

WHEREAS, it is the objective of government to help transform the young into adults who are able to realize their full potential, who are responsible citizens and able to be productive persons;

WHEREAS, a basic education consists of knowing how to read and write in the official languages, to perform arithmetic functions and reason quantitatively and to live the value of love of Country, honesty and integrity, self reliance, and others that Filipinos are expected to learn;

WHEREAS, existing measurement and evaluation practices among elementary and high school pupils do not show a full picture of educational achievement in the various School Divisions and various types of schools, such that a strategy of educational improvement cannot be adequately designed or pursued;

WHEREAS, the National Educational Testing Center (NETC), of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECS) is the educational testing arm of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Law, do hereby Order and Instruct:

1. The NETC shall institute a program of continuing research and assessment of the effectiveness of education at all levels and for all sectors of the education system, for the purpose of identifying areas of educational weakness and evolving strategies, programs and projects that will improve upon these deficiencies;
2. In the design and implementation of its testing program, the NETC shall give priority to the measurement of the achievement and learning of public school pupils (Grades I to VI), in communication skills (English and Pilipino), quantitative reasoning (arithmetic), values, and the formulated Minimum Learning Competencies at the various levels of education. With the approval of the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports, the NETC may also conduct examinations of school teachers, in order to confirm conclusions in pupil and student examinations. These activities shall cover all Regions and various types of schools, in order to identify specific areas of weakness and the type of correction that may be appropriate;
3. The research program shall aim to identify potential for improvement, including deficiencies in teacher preparedness, curriculum, textbooks,