

[LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS No. 1384, February 20, 1984]

DIRECTING THE IMPROVEMENT OF SUPPLY AND QUALITY OF TEXTBOOKS AND TEACHING AIDS

TO: The Minister of Education, Culture and Sports
 The Minister of Local Government
 The Minister of Finance
 The Minister of the Budget
 Provincial Governors and City and Municipal Mayors
 The Chairmen and Members of Local School Boards

WHEREAS, the quality of educational outcomes is affected by the availability and quality of textbooks and teaching aids;

WHEREAS, the present low textbook-pupil ratio in the public schools prevents the maximum increase of the quality of Philippine education;

WHEREAS, the limited funds appropriated by government for the procurement of books and teaching aids need to be used in the most effective manner;

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. Priority in the use of national, local and special education fund resources (including those authorized for the purchase of books and teaching aids) shall be given to the procurement of the most current textbooks approved by the Ministry under the Textbook Production Project, in order to augment those provided through the Project, with the aim of reaching a textbook-pupil ratio of 1:1;
2. Textbooks for elementary grades and high schools may be purchased by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, by local government units, or by local school boards without need for further special approvals beyond normal budgetary authorizations: Provided, That this authorization shall apply only to the most current textbooks authorized under the Textbook Production Project as circularized by the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports and at the maximum prices indicated therein; and Provided, Further, That the textbook-pupil ratio of 1:1 is not exceeded as a consequence of any such purchase;
3. The purchase of reference works shall be limited to the minimum library needs of a school. The standard contents of a school library shall be established by the Minister on recommendation of the Director of the National Library and the Director of the Bureau of Elementary Education or the Bureau of Secondary Education, as the case may be;
4. The purchase of supplementary readers, reference works not included in the list prepared under no. 3 above, commercially produced posters, flip charts, flashcards, workbooks and other teaching aids shall be suspended until further