



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
National Capital Region
DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS
Quezon City, Metro Manila



July 27, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO:

Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Division/District Supervisors
Secondary School Principals
Head Teachers/Teachers In – Charge

1. Attached is a Letter from Mr. Gerard R. Seno, National Vice President, Associated Labor Unions – TUCP dated July 19, 2011 which is self – explanatory, for the information and guidance of all concerned.
2. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

CORAZON C. RUBIO, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

SUPERVISORS/JR



Associated Labor Unions – TUCP

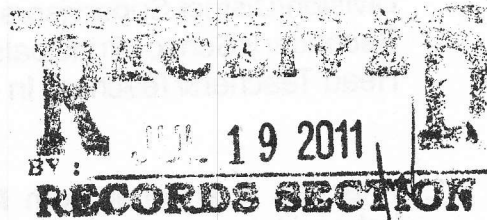
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July 19, 2011

DR. CORAZON C. RUBIO
Superintendent, Quezon City District Schools
Department of Education
San Francisco Compound
Misamis St., Bago Bantay, Q.C



Dear Dr. Rubio,

Founded by dock workers in 1954, the Associated Labor Unions (ALU) has since been the country's pioneer in championing the plight of the Filipino workers. We partner with the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) in our advocacy work towards ban and phase out in the Philippines of asbestos.

Considered as the number one cause of cancer in the workplace all over the world, the World Health Organization also estimate there are 105,000 workers die each year due to asbestos related diseases upon exposure to asbestos dust. In the Philippines, there are an estimated 1.3 million workers who are significantly exposed to asbestos dust but they can only know they have the disease 20 to 40 years later.

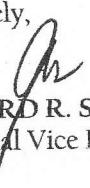
In this regard, we would like to conduct a short lecture to the officers of student governments of third and fourth year high school students in select schools in Quezon City about asbestos, its dangers to our health, and what they can do so that their exposure as future workers is reduced.

After the lecture, we will then collect their signature to a letter petitioning some of our key Senators and Congressmen to fast-track the approval and passage of pending House Bill 896 and Senate Bill 89—a propose national legislation banning the importation, manufacture, processing, use or distribution in commerce of asbestos and asbestos containing products.

We would like to jumpstart our school outreach in Batasan Hills National High School and in San Francisco High School sometime next week. Mr. Alan A. Tanjusay, the ALU Policy Advocacy Officer, is in charge of the entire outreach. He can be contacted at 0920.669.9187 and via his email address atanjusay@yahoo.com.

We anticipate your favorable response and we appreciate your effort to contribute to our action in addressing the biggest health hazards the workers are facing.

Sincerely,


GERARD R. SENO
National Vice President

Cf: NEOs
OEC Member, M.C. Mendoza
File

What is Asbestos?

It is known for its tensile strength and incombustible qualities, asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral mined underground. It is embedded in rocks and needs to be extracted before it is mixed with other products to form a useful product

There is no mining of asbestos in the Philippines but we import raw materials and by-products containing asbestos from Canada and other countries for domestic and export purpose.

Thousands of years ago, kings called it a miraculous garment and used it to bewilder his guests by throwing it to a fire without being burned. It is used by many kingdoms as perpetual wick in lighting up the entire palace. It is used to cover dead bodies of kings to preserve their ashes from wood pyre. Its use and benefit was further developed during the year 1800 especially during the Industrial Revolution in Europe.

Today it is still mixed with many other products and with other chemicals to serve humans with many purposes. Asbestos dust fibers can be found in:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Insulation/thermal | 6. Walls |
| 2. Fire retardant coats | 7. Floors |
| 3. Cement | 8. Ceiling |
| 4. Pipes | 9. Joint compounds/adhesives |
| 5. Gaskets/Friction materials-brake and clutch pads | 10. Roofs |

Why is it dangerous?

Because of weather and time, asbestos aged or become damaged it become friable or brittle. Once it becomes brittle and disturbed, it create very small dust fibers each 5 thousand times smaller than hair in diameter. It is so light that it can remained suspended in air and can be inhaled by humans.

When inhaled, the small fibers enter and pierce our lungs. Our bodies react to the fibers creating incurable cancers 20 to 40 years later. Some of the diseases caused by asbestos exposure are:

1. Mesothelioma or meso
2. Asbestosis
3. Pleural plaques

We want it banned because

The International Association of Research on Cancer (IARC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) said all forms of asbestos are cancerous and is still the number one causes of cancer in the work place.

The WHO said there are 105,000 people, especially construction workers, die every year due to exposure to asbestos. In the Philippines, there are 1.3 million workers especially in the construction are exposed every day.

In the Philippines, there are regulations in controlling asbestos but this does not ban asbestos. That is why asbestos and asbestos containing materials and products are everywhere wherever you go. Asbestos

can be found in residential houses, old churches, old schools, malls, old factories, warehouses, and construction buildings.

What you can do

TUCP Party-List Representative Raymond Democrito Mendoza has filed a bill in the House of Representatives. The House Bill 896 is an act banning the importation, manufacture, processing, use or distribution in commerce of asbestos and asbestos containing products. The required counterpart bill in the Philippine Senate is also pending—Senate Bill 89. As students and teachers, you can write a short letter urging concerned legislators to quickly pass the bills so that there will be no more asbestos coming into the Philippines and all asbestos will be expertly removed and buried underground once the bill is approved into law.

You can address your letters to:

Hon. Rep. Feliciano Belmonte
Speaker, House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Hon. Rep. Dan Fernandez
Chairman, Ecology Committee
3/F Annex Building, House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

And to

Hon. Senator Juan Ponce Enrile
Senate President, Philippine Senate
6/F GSIS Bldg., Financial Center
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Hon. Senator Pia Cayetano
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health and
Demography
Philippine Senate
5/F GSIS Bldg., Financial Center
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Hon. Senator Manny Villar
Chairman, Committee on Trade and Commerce
Philippine Senate
5/F GSIS Bldg., Financial Center Roxas Blvd.,
Pasay City

FOR MORE INFORMATION & INTERVIEWS, CONTACT:

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ABOUT ALU-TUCP

*Founded by dock workers in 1954, the Associated Labor
Unions (ALU) had since been the country's pioneer in
championing the ideals of free trade unionism. Along with
its affiliates, partners here and abroad, and alliance with
the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP),
ALU has been steadfast advocate of the plight of the
toiling masses working in various industries and sectors.*

*The ALU-TUCP partners with Building and
Woodworkers International (BWI) in working towards
asbestos ban and phase out in the Philippines. The
partnership works to eliminate asbestos-related diseases
found in public and private infrastructures and buildings
such as homes, schools, work places, churches, malls,
including power plants and toward ensuring the rights,
interests and welfare of regular and non-regular workers
are promoted and protected i.e. security of tenure,
freedom of association and collective bargaining or
collective negotiation and providing limits in the
duration and renewal of employment contracts of non-
regular workers to enable them enjoy the benefits
accorded to regular worker.*