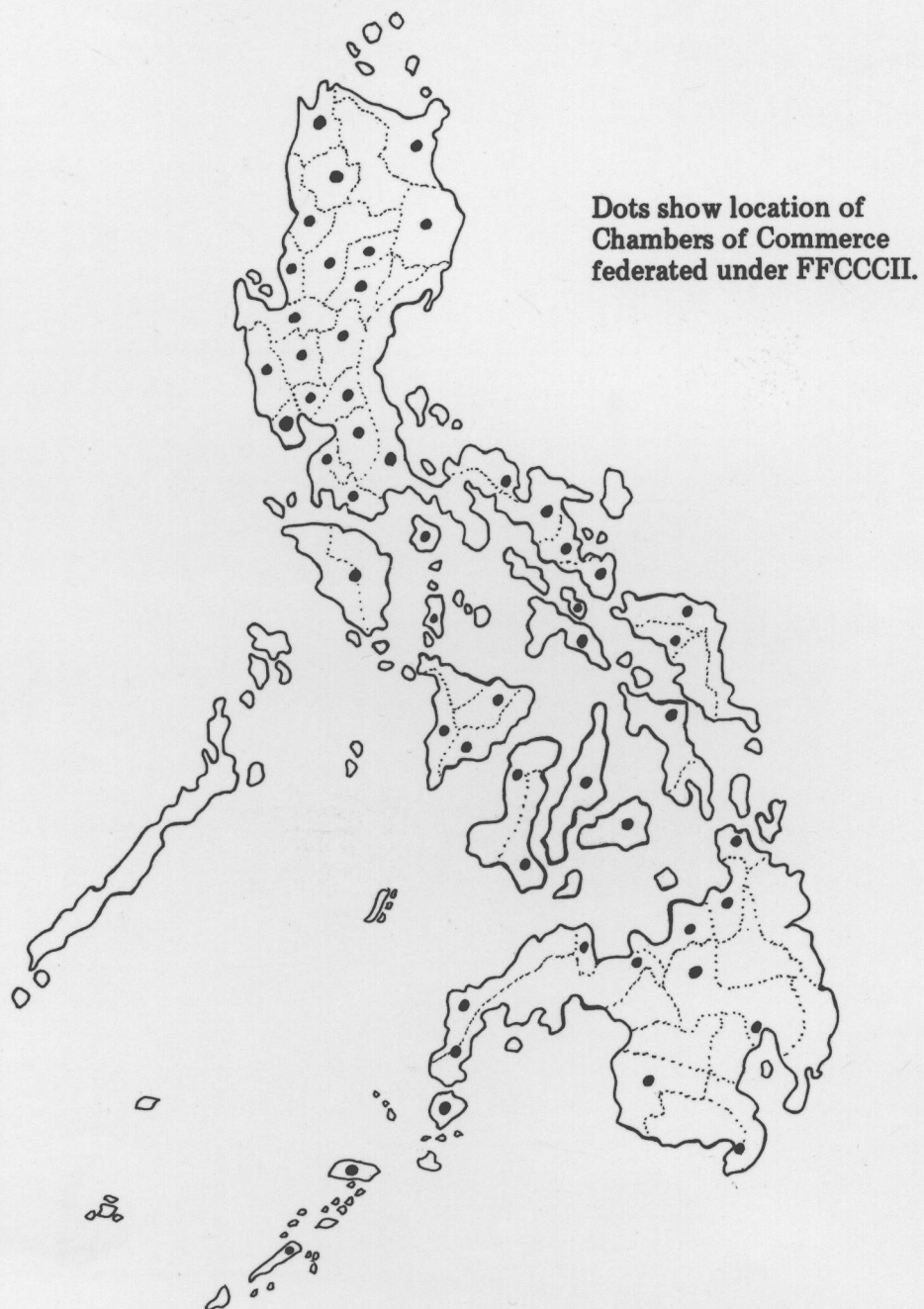


operation: *Barrio Schools*



UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE
FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC.

DISTRIBUTION MAP OF CHAMBER MEMBERS





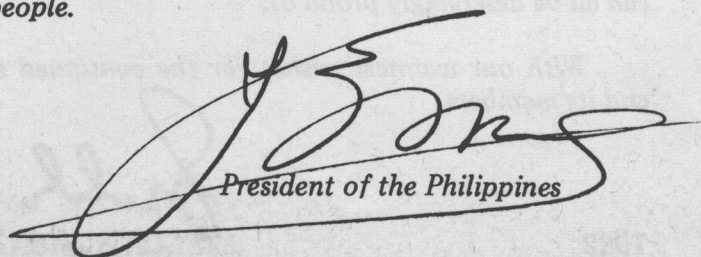
MESSAGE

I am very pleased for this opportunity to greet the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. for printing a special publication to record the growth and development of its school building program.

Dubbed "Operation: Barrio Schools," this program has helped determine much of the quality and direction of education in our country since its inception in 1961. For this reason, the initiative of the people behind it deserves emulation.

To its generous donors, I extend my profoundest appreciation, and to the Federation, my prayerful wishes for additional years of fruitful service to our country and our people.

Mabuhay !


President of the Philippines



M E S S A G E

We commend the officers and members of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. for their generous and continuous support of government programs which seek to foster the development and progress of our people.

One laudable program of the Federation, known as "Operation: Barrio Schools", has provided educational opportunities for thousands of our youth, thereby increasing our national literacy and providing the necessary training for our young citizens to become useful and productive.

We congratulate the Federation for documenting the growth and development of its school building program for posterity. It is a record you can all be deservedly proud of.

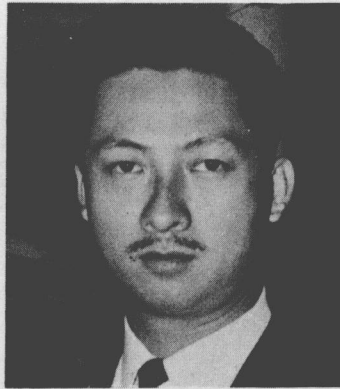
With our warmest wishes for the continued success of the Federation and its members.

IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS

Present Administration



MR. RALPH NUBLA
President



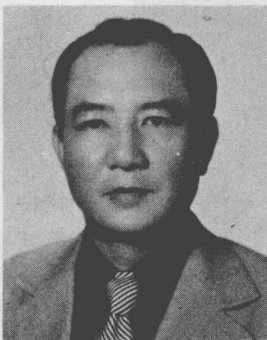
JOHNNY CHENG
Executive Vice President



LUCIO TAN
Vice President



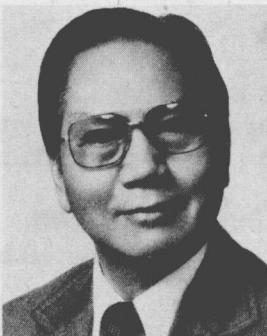
PETER C.L. YU
Vice President



YAO ENG HUE
Vice President



JIMMY TANG
Vice President

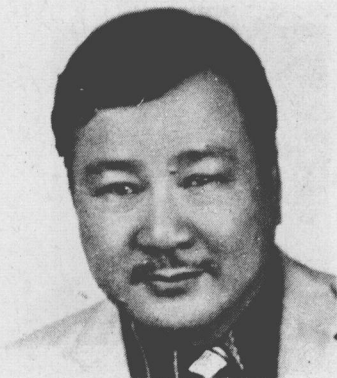


TANG TACK
General - Secretary



ATTY. A. SEPIDOZA
Corporate Secretary

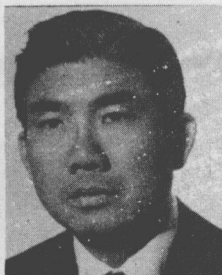
WELFARE COMMITTEE



SY CHUN
Chairman



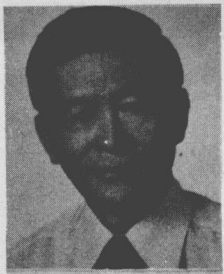
SY HIAN CHO
Vice Chairman



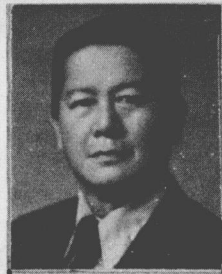
JOSE T. CHING
Vice Chairman



LI KA
Member



VICENTE CHING
Member



ANG KIA
Member



ANTONIO YANG
Member



UY KIM
Member



BENG WANG
Member



VICENTE SITOSTA
Member

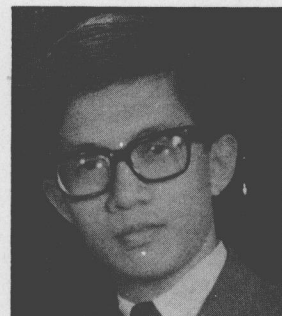
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



NAPOLEON NG
Chairman

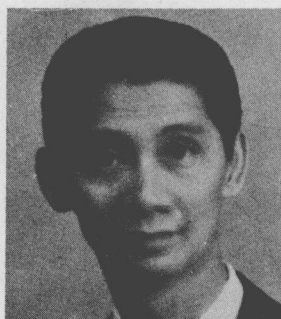


VICENTE YU
Vice Chairman

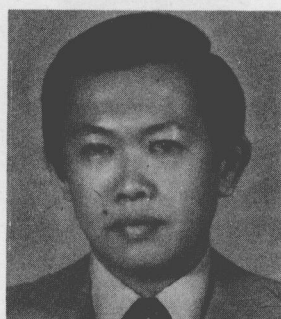


ESTEBAN PEÑA SY
Vice Chairman

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE



ANTONIO TY
Chairman

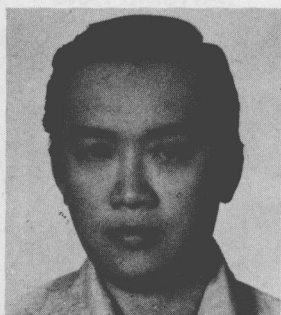


VICENTE S. TAN
Vice Chairman



CHENG HAN SUI
Vice Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE



**S. ANTONIO ROXAS
CHUA, JR.**
Chairman



TY PECK SUAN
Vice Chairman

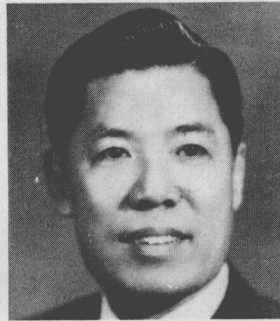


BENITO YAO
Vice Chairman

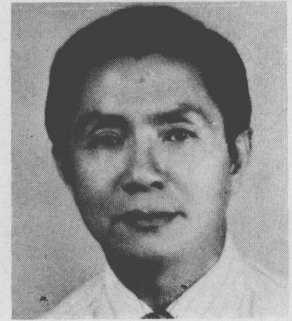
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE



CO SAM
Chairman



EUFRONIO AYSON ONG
Vice Chairman

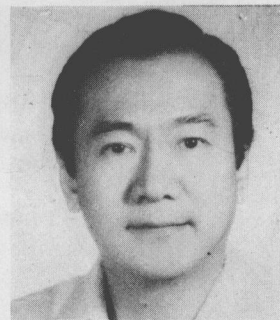


CHUA HANG
Vice Chairman

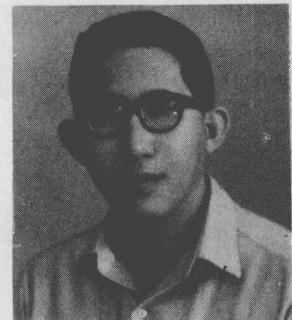
ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE



TEE KIENG KI
Chairman



AW PENG LAM
Vice Chairman

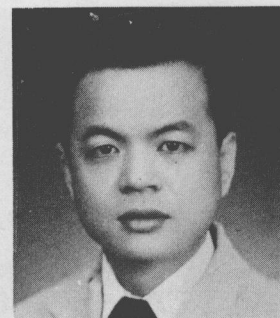


WILLIAM SY GOON
Vice Chairman

LIAISON COMMITTEE



MACARIO YU
Chairman



ONG EH
Vice Chairman



TAN SENG KOK
Vice Chairman

ARBITRATION COMMITTEE



TAN GUAN
Chairman



CHAN HUAN CHIU
Vice Chairman



LIM TIONG
Vice Chairman

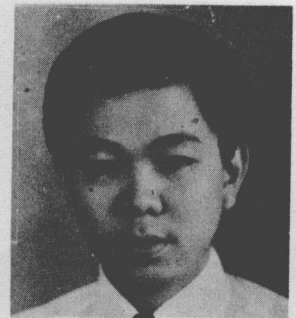
YOUTH AND INTEGRATION COMMITTEE



JERRY LIMPE
Chairman

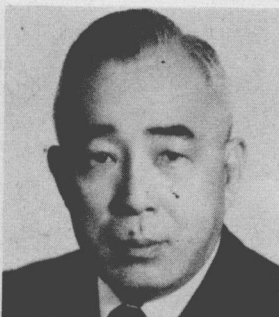


DOMINGO LEE
Vice Chairman

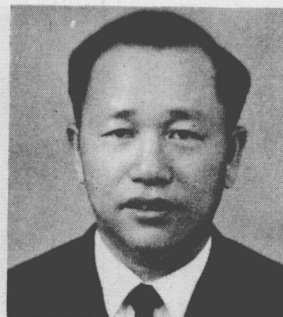


DANTE S. GO
Vice Chairman

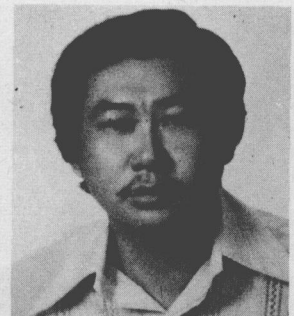
BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE



VICENTE DY SUN, SR.
Chairman



REMEGIO OCAMPO TAN
Vice Chairman



ROBERT SIY CHIN
Vice Chairman

Operation Barrio School

"The education of the youth is as much our concern as anybody else's, because we in the Filipino-Chinese community regard the welfare of the Filipino youth in general as our own. Thus, we place a premium on the education of the youth, particularly those belonging to the less privileged sector of our society."

Thus declared Mr. Ralph Nubla, a respected and renowned leader of the Filipino-Chinese community, who is the incumbent president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. The Federation's school building program, dubbed "Operation: Barrio Schools", is widely known in this country.

That "Operation: Barrio Schools" is high in the agenda of projects of the Federation is shown by the fact that upon his assumption to a renewed mandate as president, Mr. Nubla pledged to President Marcos the construction of 65 units of schools during his term of office. This number has already swelled to 110 units — more pledges are still expected — which, at an average unit cost of ₱60,000, will require a total amount of not less than ₱6 million.

How this project came about will be better appreciated when one recalls that in 1958 the country lacked an estimated 20,000 schoolrooms. This doubled to 40,000 in 1961 despite the fact that the government constructed a total of 10,000 schoolrooms

in the same period. And with the increasing number of children reaching school age, such backlog was expected to outstrip government efforts. This annual problem is even more acute at present.

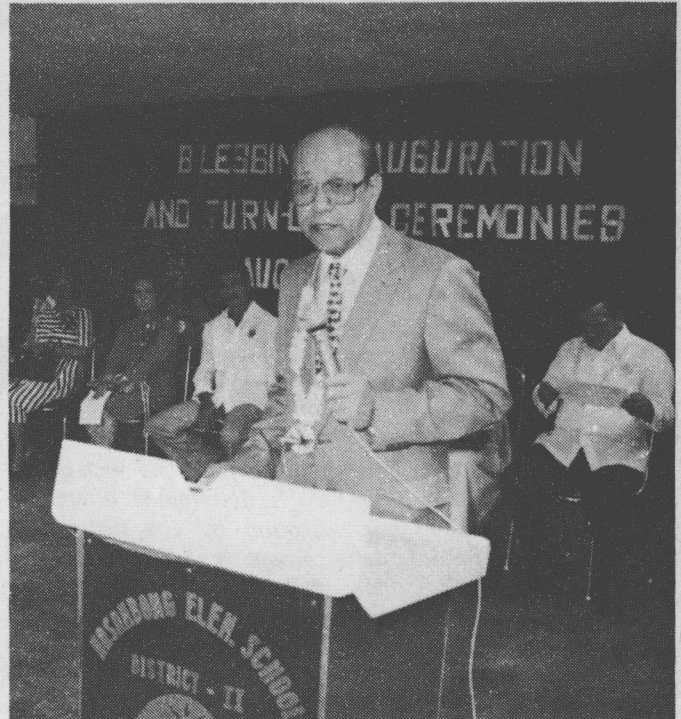
Ever supportive of the policies and programs of the government, the Federation directed its attention to this perennial problem. During its Third Biennial Convention in late 1960, the Federation decided to launch a long-range school building program. It was named "Operation: Barrio Schools".

As conceived, the Federation raises funds to defray the construction of standard two-room school buildings. Donations from civic-spirited members of the Filipino-Chinese community are pooled in a special fund exclusively to be spent for this project. School houses are erected in places where they are sorely needed on a lot provided by the barrio council or local government.

The Welfare Committee of the Federation was given the task of carrying out this unprecedented project ever undertaken by the private sector.

Immediately, "Operation: Barrio Schools" was put into effect and the first unit was turned over to Barrio Obrero, La Paz, Iloilo City in June, 1961.

During the first ten years since its launching, 100 units were built; the next ten years netted an additional 300 units.



It was on April 29, 1974, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of its founding, that the project picked up pace. On this occasion, the Federation pledged to President Marcos seventy-seven schoolhouses, then considered the biggest number of donations pledged at any given time under "Operations Barrio Schools".

After the Eleventh Biennial Convention in 1976, more than 200 schoolhouses had already been donated. And when President Marcos issued Letter of Instructions No. 270 which provided for a more liberal procedure in the acquisition of Philippine citizenship, the Filipino-Chinese community expressed their deep ap-

preciation through pledges totalling 130 schoolhouses, the biggest single pledge under "Operations Barrio Schools". This took place during the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Federation.

As of June 30, 1982, the Federation had already turned over 500 schoolhouses to different barangay beneficiaries with more units either ready for formal turn-over or awaiting construction.

The Federation has strived to spread the benefits of this project all over the country. Thus, schools built under this program are found from as far north as Batanes to as far

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south as Tawi-Tawi, Luzon receiving 255 units, Visayas 140 units, and Mindanao 94 units. Metro Manila received a share of 66 units.

Inasmuch as this project is limited by the number of donors and pledges, it is impossible for each of the barangay all over the country to become a beneficiary of at least a schoolhouse. The Federation receives numerous requests for donation of a schoolhouse — through letters, resolutions of barangay councils and Sangguniang Bayan of municipalities, and through representations of ranking government national and local officials — requests that cannot all be met. Distribution of pledged units used to be done after consultation with the Office of the President but this practice has been abandoned. The present practice is now to consider first the preference of the donor and if no preference is indicated, priority to the award is made on the basis of the urgency of the need of the requesting barangay or



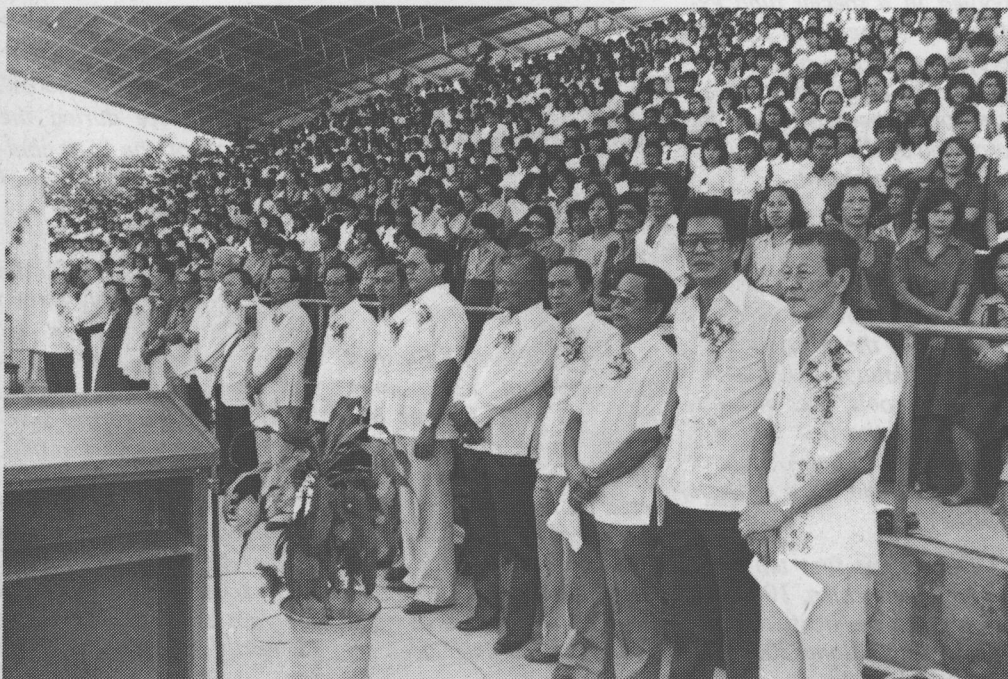
municipality, and such urgency is determined after verification by the Federation, through its various regional directors or local chamber members.

Donors who desire to undertake construction of the school may do so by themselves but most of the schools

were built at the instance of the Federation through a building contractor who erects the school in accordance with a standard building plan and on funds furnished by the Federation, thus sparing the donor of the myriad of details that go into such a construction.

There are donors who participated in this project in their desire to perpetuate the memory of their parents or relatives. Others are moved by their desire to show their appreciation to the community where they prospered. Many others did it in response to the Federation's "Austerity Movement" and appeal for simple living, thus amounts intended to lavishly celebrate a milestone in one's life, like birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and even for round-the-world honeymoon, were instead donated to build a unit or two schoolrooms under this project. But the common denominator of all the benefactors of "Operation: Barrio Schools" is the desire to do something good for the sake of doing it. In short, donors have found a medium to express their sense of civic conscience and the spirit of bayanihan and manifest in tangible terms their sense of belonging to, and kinship with the community.

The success of this project is lodged largely on the vast reservoir of goodwill in the



a lasting monument rising from the frustrations of the past . . .

(Cont.)

Filipino-Chinese community, the ready generosity to share one's blessings with those who have less in life, the willingness to curb extravagance and wasteful spending to contribute to a worthy cause — the education of the youth.

The significance of this project lies not in the number of schools built - for obviously it cannot compare with the school building program of the government. Its true impact lies in the fact that many of these schools are built in far flung and depressed areas which has, all too often, been left out of a normal course of prioritized planning schemes for rural development growth.

It is noteworthy that "Operation: Barrio Schools" has been sustained for 22 years now; what is remarkable is it has been pursued at an accelerated pace.

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. has undertaken many socio-civic projects to underscore its genuine concern for the welfare of those who have less in life in our society, but nothing can equal "Operation: Barrio Schools" both in magnitude and in its long lasting benefit to the country.

During its 25th anniversary celebration, the Federation was honored by President Marcos who said:

"The most important of the Federation's social welfare projects has been the long-term program to augment the government's effort to provide school-houses particularly in the underprivileged communities."

"Aside from the material benefits it has provided to the underprivileged com-



munities, the program has a desirable effect of promoting greater friendship and understanding between our community and the rest of the Filipino people at the grassroots level."

For this and other civic projects, the Federation was awarded by President Marcos the coveted Golden Heart Presidential Award on March 29, 1979, citing it, among others, "for contributing its share to the education of our youth by its on-going donations to distressed barrios from Aparri to Jolo."

"Distressed barrios" proved to be the key terms because, more often than not, these areas are somehow shunted out of the normal requisites in program plan-

ning, particularly among local government circles. In more ways than one, community leaders have little access to the corridors of power and, in the final reckoning, are allotted shoe-string budgets for even the more compelling needs of far-flung villages, notably schoolbuildings.

Adding to the woes of the little known villages is the fact that families in these areas are prone to ignore the government's campaign to reduce childbirth rates. This accounts for the intractable population growth in areas that can ill afford it. Year in and year out, the number of children of school age, oftentimes, outrace the capability of the local governments to provide for their basic needs, school facilities among them.



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schoolchildren were known to hold sessions in abandoned barnhouses. Typhoons blew down their only schoolbuilding. The Federation came to the rescue. These and many other similarly-situated villages drew spontaneous responses from the Federation.

What this exactly means is that the entire effort flows along highly prioritized actions, mostly geared towards providing school facilities where there is dire need for them. More often than not, the number of school buildings donated by the end of each year exceed the number of pledges for the same period, matched only perhaps by the growing number of individual donors.

Against this backdrop, the Federation's "Operation Barrio Schools" and its vital contribution to government efforts towards solving the perennial problem of classroom shortages, assumes deeper meaning. For while the project provides decent classroom accommodations for schoolchildren, notwithstanding its own constraints, it has unravelled in the Filipino-Chinese community a social conscience.

In fact, it is the project's social content that distinguishes it as a monumental achievement of the Federation. For it transcends all forms of social, religious, and cultural barriers to deliver one of society's most compelling requirements — that of insuring the education of the youth.

Only recently, the Federation has turned over 13 schoolhouses in Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao provinces and in Muslim-dominated Cotabato City. One of these schools was constructed in a typhoon-ravaged island off the coast of Bongo town in Sultan Kudarat

where children had missed their classes for over a year for severe lack of classroom accommodations.

In a frontier village in Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, distraut mothers agonized over the absence of schoolhouses. The nearest one was two villages away, drawn still further away on account

of the winding, oftentimes, muddy foot trails, not to speak of the lurking dangers posed by roving bands of rebels.

The Federation put a schoolhouse right in their own frontyard so to speak.

In a number of remote villages in western Pangasinan,

Here lies the intrinsic merit of the entire effort. For as Mr. Nubla puts it: "the Filipino-Chinese community places a premium on the education of the youth which ranks second to none in the Federation's scale of priorities.



A heartwarming transition . . .



from a tumbledown shack for a classroom . . .



. . . to a schoolboy's eternal pride and joy . . .

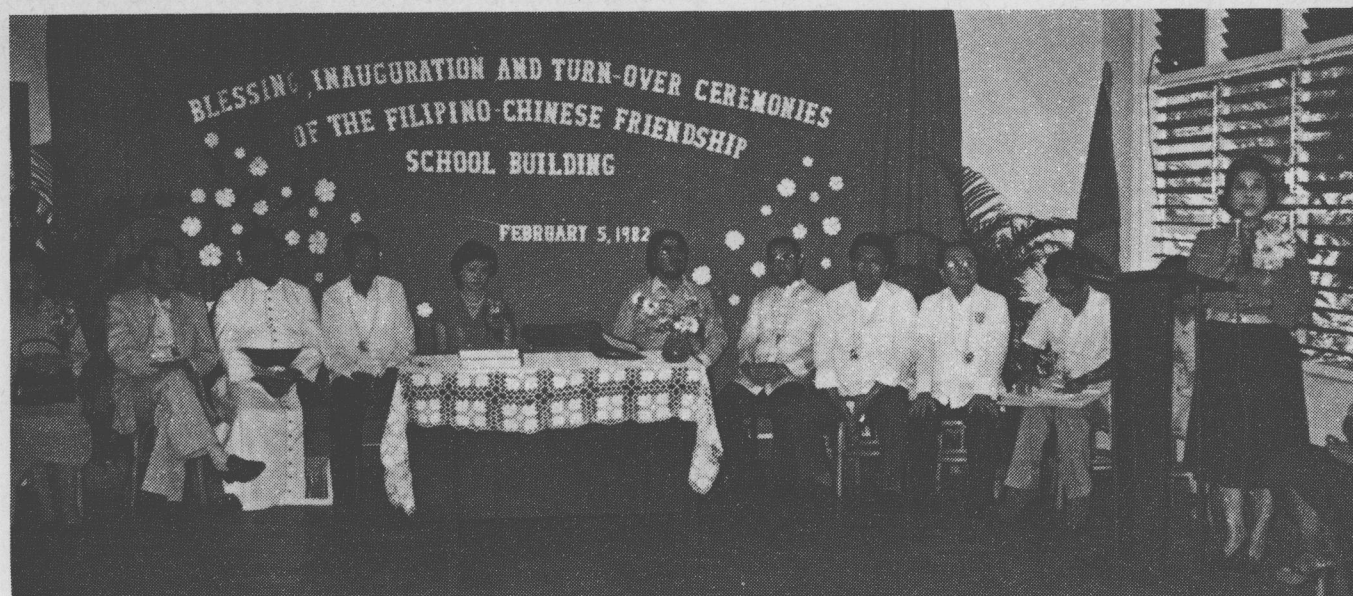




. . . placing a premium on the education of the youth . . .

. . . all it takes is close cooperation between government and the private sector towards solving the country's pressing problems, one of which is the education of the less privileged youth . .





... solemn rites such as these match with the solemn mission that "operation: barrio schools" undertakes.

