



556 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036  
TEL. NO. (212) 764-1300

No. 000824

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, with reference to the Second Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to be held in New York on 2-4 September 2009, has the honor to forward the following information regarding legislative measures on disability taken by the Philippines:

- **Republic Act (RA) No. 9442 – An Act Amending RA 7277 otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disability as Amended and for other Purposes” Granting Additional Privileges and Incentives and Prohibitions on Verbal, Non-verbal Ridicule and Verification Against Persons with Disability**

The objective of this RA is to provide persons with disability with opportunities in society using the principle of respect for their human rights and equality as an anchor for their development. The law calls for affirmative measures such as granting PWDs at least twenty percent (20%) discount in all basic/public services to enable them opportunities to function effectively in society on an equal basis with others.

In addition to the Magna Carta, there are pending bills (Senate Bill Nos. 2313 and 2323) which call for the creation of Disabilities Affairs Office in every province, city and municipality.

- **Joint Circular No. 2003-01 – Implementing Guidelines for Section 29 of the General Appropriation Act (GAA)/National Budget 2003 Entitled “Setting Aside At Least One Percent of Government Agency Budget for Programs/Projects Related to Senior Citizens and the Disabled Persons**

There is a joint effort by the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to prescribe guidelines for the implementation of Section 29 of the national budget directing all national government agencies, executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, commissions and state universities and colleges

to set aside at least one (1%) of their budget to programs/projects/activities for the older persons and persons with disabilities.

- **Proclamation No. 240 – Declaring the Period Year 2003 to the Year 2012 as the Philippine Decade of Persons with Disabilities signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on 21 August 2002**

This proclamation directed the National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled Persons (NCWDP) to rationalize all disability-related efforts by formulating and issuing a comprehensive National Plan of Action for the Decade which translates the objectives of the Republic Act 7277- Magna Carta for Disabled persons and *Batas Pambansa* 344-Accessibility Law, and other disability related laws and policies into concrete programs of action for the Decade.

- **Evaluation of the Status of the national focal office on disability**

By virtue of Presidential Executive Order No. 709 of 26 February 2008, the National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled Persons (NCWDP) was restructured into the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA). The NCDA now functions directly under the Office of the President. This institutional change gives disability issues a higher political profile which would strengthen government programs and the financing of efforts for the welfare of persons with disabilities. The NCDA is tasked to monitor the implementation of all national laws relating to disability, such as the Republic Act (RA) No. 7277 (Magna Carta for PWDs), *Batas Pambansa Blg. 444* (Accessibility Law) and R.A. 6759 (White Cane Act). The NCDA is the agency tasked with the monitoring of the obligations of the Philippine Government as a States Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ILO Convention 159 on the Vocational Rehabilitation of PWDs.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the assurances of its highest consideration.

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