

Philippine Coalition on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

ALYANSA NG MAY KAPANSANANG PINOY • AUTISM SOCIETY PHILIPPINES • GOVERNMENT UNION FOR DISABLED EMPLOYEES • KATIPUNAN NG MGA MAYKAPANSANAN SA PILIPINAS • LAS PIÑAS FEDERATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES • LEONARD CHESHIRE DISABILITY PHILIPPINES • LIFE HAVEN • NEW VOIS ASSOCIATION • NOVA FOUNDATION • PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN • PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN WITH LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES • PHILIPPINE CHAMBER FOR MASSAGE INDUSTRY FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED • PHILIPPINE DEAF RESOURCE CENTER • PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF • PUNLAKA • QUEZON CITY FEDERATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES • TAHANANG WALANG HAGDANAN • WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES LEAP TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS

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STATEMENT FROM THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SECTOR
ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2012 BUDGET

Whereas, it is a recognized national and global demographic that at least 10%, and up to 15% of any population is comprised of Persons with Disabilities, and that this is true for the Republic of the Philippines;

Whereas, it is acknowledged that disability is an evolving concept and that it results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others; and

Whereas, Persons with Disabilities have the right to live in dignity and equality with all others regardless of their disability, age, gender, language, religion, geographic location, property, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, educational attainment, or other status;

Whereas, the Philippine Coalition on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a broad-based alliance of Filipinos of various disability constituencies, acknowledges all the above, and recognizes:

That it is clearly stated in the constitution of our Republic that each and every Filipino has a right to dignity, and to live in equality with all others;

That the State has formulated domestic legislation such as R.A. 7277 (the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities), and voluntarily committed itself to international treaties such as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

That this commitment to the Persons with Disabilities sector has been clearly mandated

in an administrative circular of an executive department as early as 2008, to wit:¹

*Department of Social Welfare & Development
Administrative Order No. 13
Series of 2008*

*SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN ORGANIZING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES INTO
SELF-HELP GROUPS (SHGS)*

II. LEGAL BASE

C. Administrative Issuances

3. Joint circular No. 2003-01

*Implementing Guidelines for Section 29 of the General Appropriations
Act for FY 2003 entitled "Setting Aside One Percent of Government
Agency Budget for Programme / Projects Related to Senior Citizens
and the Disabled Persons".*

IX. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONCERNED PARTIES

A. Local Governments

1. Municipal/ City Social Welfare and Development Office

*Identify target beneficiaries and undertake social preparation, capability
building for Persons with Disabilities, ...*

*Appropriation of funding support to be taken from the 5% allocation
of PWDs as mandated by the DBM and DSWD joint circular.*

X. FUNDING SOURCE

*The funding for this administrative order shall come from the Annual General
Appropriations Act of DSWD and other Government Agencies as well as the
Annual Allocation of Local Government as provided for by Proclamation 240
and other issuance related to the 2003 - 2012 Philippine Decade for Disabled
Persons and RA 7160. The SHGs' work and financial plan shall be integrated in
the Local Investment Planning.*

And further, in an issuance by the President of the Republic:

*Presidential Proclamation 240 Declaring the Period from the Year 2003 to the Year
2012 as the Philippine Decade of Persons with Disabilities:*

*All heads of Departments, Chiefs of Bureaus, Offices, Agencies and Instrumentalities of
the National Government, including officials of Local Government, are hereby
instructed to implement plans, programs, and activities geared towards the
development of persons with disabilities based on the National Plan of Action for the
Decade. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Proclamation shall be
sourced out by the concerned agencies from their annual appropriation, the amount of
which shall not be less than 1% of each agency's total budget for the year.*

¹ <http://www.dswd.gov.ph/phocadownload/laws/AONo132008.pdf>

And even further, annually in General Appropriations Acts as far back as 2005, e.g.,²:

Sec. 32. Programs/Projects Related to Senior Citizens and the Differently-Abled. In support of the Philippine Plan of Action for Older Persons, 2005-2009, all departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, commissions, and SUCs shall set aside at least one percent (1%) of their total FY 2005 budget appropriations as cost of implementation thereof, in coordination with the DSWD.

Sec. 33. Projects/Facilities for the Differently-Abled. All government facilities, including infra, non-infra and civil works projects of the government as well as office buildings, streets and highways, shall provide architectural facilities or structural features and designs as shall reasonably enhance the mobility, safety and welfare of differently-abled persons pursuant to B.P. Blg. 344 and R.A. No. 7277.

The Philippine Coalition on the U.N. CRPD then appeals in earnest to the Chief Executive, the Upper and Lower Houses to concretely bring these duties and commitments to full implementation and realization in 2012 by:

- **Directing that at least 1% of the total budget for 2012 of each national government agency, and up to 5% of local government units be appropriated, allocated and released for programs, services and activities for Persons with Disabilities;**
- **Mandating that these funds be used to address disability-related needs (e.g., in the form of a disability allowance or an equivalent) for accessibility to the physical, social, economic, political and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, to enable Persons with Disabilities to live independently and with dignity, fully enjoying all human rights and fundamental freedoms;**
- **Ensuring that these appropriations promote the right of Persons with Disabilities to an adequate standard of living, and enjoyment of their right to social protection without discrimination on the basis of disability;**
- **Including measures to ensure the protection and safety of Persons with Disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters; and**
- **Utilizing these funds to make sure that women, children with disabilities, those in rural and remote areas including the under-represented who experience multiple discrimination and marginalization be afforded particular attention in the protection and enjoyment of their rights and freedoms.**

² http://www.dbm.gov.ph/dbm_publications/gaa_2005/General_Provisions.pdf