

STATEMENT
From the Philippine Coalition on the UNCRPD

On Mandatory Earmarked Appropriations for Persons with Disabilities from 2003-2012

philcoalitioncrpd@gmail.com

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation 240 declared 2003 to 2012 as the 2nd Decade for Persons with Disabilities, and directed the (then) National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons to formulate a National Plan of Action for the Decade, and that all Departments, Bureaus, Offices, Agencies and instrumentalities of the National government spend **not less than 1% of each agency's total annual budgets for persons with disabilities**;

CONSEQUENTLY:

the General Appropriations Act , annually for an entire decade, directed government agencies to earmark their annual budgets for spending for persons with disabilities;

the Department of Budget and Management, and Department of Social Welfare and Development issued at the start of the Decade, Joint Circular 2003-01, containing implementing guidelines for this GAA provision:

- that all government agencies submit reports for annual Agency Plans, and Agency Accomplishment Reports;
- designating the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the (then) National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons to evaluate / assess , and consolidate accomplishment reports on the implementation by agencies, and on the 1st Qtr of the subsequent year, submitting to the House Committee, copy furnished the Department of Budget and Management; and
- that these annual reports serve as basis for review and evaluation of the agency budget proposal for the succeeding year;

DESPITE the clear earmarking of at least 1% for persons with disabilities in Presidential Proclamation 240, annually in the General Appropriations Act, this was *divergently* stated as **at least 1% of programs and projects for Senior Citizens and the Differently-abled**;

ACCORDING TO THE DATA-GATHERING in 2013 by this Coalition from publicly available sources, and communications with concerned individual agencies, the Commission on Audit, the Congress Committee on Appropriations, and the (now) National Council on Disability Affairs:

- Only a minor fraction of national government agencies reported implementation of this provision annually for the entire Decade;

- Of 63 national government agencies from which the Coalition was able to access available information, only 13 agencies (or 21% of the agencies) provided quantitative data. These ranged from variable utilization of 0.008% to 0.98% of an agency's annual budget;
- Joint Circular DBM /DSWD 2003-01 was only cursorily implemented resulting in intermittent (if any) submission of reports to the (then) National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons/ (currently) National Council on Disability Affairs;
- Annual Audit Reports of the Commission on Audit reflect variable compliance of agencies :
 - some reported a failure of the agency to integrate in their plans, or earmark any amount for utilization;
 - others reported that some agencies only partially utilized their budget for persons with disabilities;
 - some did not report any implementation of this mandate relating to persons with disabilities (even though some included information on the mandatory 5% for Gender and Development), leaving it to speculation whether the provision was not implemented, not reported, or both;
 - some agencies said they were not aware of this mandatory provision of the GAA;
 - the same findings of non-compliance occurred in Audit Reports of consecutive years; or
 - non-compliance was found for some agencies up to the final year of the Decade;
- The National Council on Disability has no publicly released evaluation or assessment of the National Plan of Action for the entire Decade, including the implementation of the earmarked appropriations from 2003-2012.

**IN VIEW OF ALL OF THE ABOVE, THE COALITION BELIEVES THAT EFFECTIVELY,
*PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 240 WAS NEVER IMPLEMENTED:***

1. the GAA provision diverged from the mandate of the Proclamation, by including Senior Citizens, and consequently decreasing the proportion for persons with disabilities;
2. DBM / DSWD Joint Circular 2003-01 was not implemented annually for the entire Decade; and
3. the oversight entities i.e., the DSWD, the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons / National Council on Disability Affairs; the House Committee (on Appropriations), and the Department of Budget and Management, did not carry out their mandated responsibilities.

THUS, THE COALITION RECOMMENDS THAT TO RECTIFY THIS GROSS INADEQUACY, THIS MANDATORY EARMARKING BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED AS CONCRETE COMPLIANCE WITH PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 688, FOR THE 3rd DECADE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND AS PART OF THE INCHEON STRATEGY:

1. That earmarking of 1% solely for persons with disabilities be carried out according to the mandate of the original Presidential Proclamation;
2. That effective annual oversight for coordination, evaluation and assessment of its implementation be institutionalized, by convening:
 - a) the relevant Committees in the House of Representatives to monitor and evaluate appropriations annually for persons with disabilities;
 - b) a multistakeholder body to institute and oversee comprehensive reporting on spending for persons with disabilities by: all agencies, the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Department of Budget and Management; the Congress Committee on Appropriations, and the Commission on Audit;
3. That the National Council on Disability Affairs together with the Department of Budget and Management carry out mid-Decade, and comprehensive end-Decade assessments, reporting on the compliance, and effectiveness of this mandatory earmarking.

Recommendations for appropriations and overall spending for persons with disabilities after the 3rd Decade should be made by the Department of Budget and Management following discussions with the National Council on Disability Affairs and the National Economic and Development Authority.

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

Alyansa ng may Kapansanang Pinoy
Antipolo Multi-Sectoral Organization
Autism Society Philippines
Calamba PWD Federation
CALL Foundation for the Blind
Deafblind Support Philippines
Government Union for the Integration of Differently-Abled Employees
Katipunan ng mga Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas- National Capital Region
Las Pinas Persons with Disability Federation
Leonard Cheshire Disability Philippines
Life Haven
My Refuge
Nationwide Organization of Visually Impaired Empowered Ladies
New Vois Association
Parents Association of Visually impaired Children
Philippine Alliance for Persons with Chronic Illness
Philippine Blind Union
Philippine Association for Children With Developmental and Learning Disabilities
Philippine Chamber for Massage Industry for Visually Impaired
Philippine Deaf Resource Center
Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled
Philippine Federation of the Deaf
Psoriasis Philippines
Punlaka
Quezon City Federation of Persons With Disabilities
Visually Impaired Brotherhood for Excellent Services
Vision-Impaired and Striving Individuals Optimizing Normalcy Aiming for Resiliency Independence Empowerment and Spirituality
Tahanang Walang Hagdanan
Women with Disabilities Leap To Social and Economic Progress