

(PAMBANSANG SAMAHAN NG MGA NARS NG PILIPINAS, INC.)
Member, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

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# PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC. POSITION STATEMENT ON THE PROPER USE OF NURSES UNIFORM AND CAPS

CONCERNS: THE USE OF NURSE UNIFORMS AND CAPS IN THE OPENING SEGMENT OF GMA'S NOONTIME SHOW "EAT BULAGA" AS COSTUMES OF THE GROUP DANCERS.

POSITION: The Philippine Nurses Association, Inc. (PNA) imposes upon itself as the accredited professional organization for nursing to strongly uphold and maintain the integrity and good professional image of Filipino nurses not only in the Philippines but to the whole world. The proper use of the white uniform and the cap is one of those that symbolize these commitments of promoting and building this professional image.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) also ensures that the highest standard of professional practice shall at all times be observed. It is because of this that the PRC promulgated the **Code of Ethics for Nurses** which provides to wit:

"Registered Nurses must not allow themselves to be used in advertisement that should demean the image of the profession (i.e. indecent exposure, violation of dress code, seductive behaviour, etc.)"; and,

"Registered Nurses must project an image that will uplift the nursing profession at all times<sup>2</sup>".

To uphold the same, the Supreme Court provides *Circular No. 27-2000* on guidelines in the wearing of the prescribed office uniforms which conforms with the provisions of **RA No. 6713** (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public officials and Employees). These provisions are highly valued and religiously followed by our Filipino nurses.

Furthermore, the **Department of Interior and Local Government issued a Memorandum** Circular No. 2006-144 dated October 26, 2006, which recognized and emphasized that "ONLY REGISTERED NURSES CAN WEAR SUCH UNIFORM WHICH TOGETHER WITH THE NURSING CAP AND PIN, IS A SYMBOL OF PURITY, COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO MANKIND." This memorandum therefore prohibits the improper display or use of such uniforms since such a

<sup>2</sup> Section 14, par. (e) of Article V of the Code of Ethics for Nurses.



Section 10, par. (b) of Article III of the Code of Ethics For Nurses

practice demeans the image and integrity of the nursing profession. It maintains that the proper use and wearing of white uniforms, white caps and its pin be fully uphold and respected.

It is for this matter that we would like to bring to the attention of Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) the alleged wearing of nurse uniform and cap in the opening segment of GMA's noontime show "EAT BULAGA" last Saturday January 18, 2014. It is a clear violation our right to be respected as a noble profession. It has offended our highly esteemed Filipino nurses who really work hard in order uplift our profession to its highest level.

CALL FOR ACTION: The PNA strongly believes the philosophy of GMA as a KAPUSO among the Filipinos. We understand that being a KAPUSO has its professional responsibility to respect the right of the every Filipino and uphold its dignity.

However, in the said opening dance segment of the "EAT BULAGA" showing dancing nurses wearing inappropriate uniforms and caps, our professional nurses felt violated. Thereafter, the PNA received numerous complaints and negative responses from our beloved Filipino nurses here and abroad.

We want to make it clear that Philippine Nurses Association, Inc. (PNA) denounces this kind of disrespect to our professional image.

Thus, we respectfully move to the honourable chairperson of Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to investigate the alleged incident and call the attention of the GMA Network Administration as well as the staff and producer of the show "Eat Bulaga" relative to alleged violation of our right.

Accordingly, if proven guilty, to impose sanction/s against the erring parties as maybe warranted under the circumstances in order to avoid similar incidents/violation in the future.



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January 20, 2014

Atty. Jonathan S. Prequito Attorney V-MTRCB MTRCB Bldg., No. 18 Timog Avenue, **Quezon City** 

Dear Atty. Presquito;



376-7380 loc. 112 Ms-Anna

The undersigned would like to call your attention on the improper and inappropriate wearing of nurse uniform and cap in the opening dance segment of GMA's noontime show "EAT BULAGA" last Saturday January 18, 2014.

It is a clear violation our Code of Ethics for Nurses and right to be respected as a noble profession. It has offended our highly esteemed Filipino nurses here and abroad who work hard in order to uplift our profession to its highest level.

We, from Philippine Nurses Association, Inc. (PNA) denounce this kind of disrespect to our professional image.

Accordingly, may we request the Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to investigate the alleged incident and impose the proper sanction as maybe warranted under the circumstances to avoid similar incidents/violation in the future.

Respectfully Yours,

ROGER P. TONG-AN, DMPA, MAN, RN

**National President** 

cc: MR. GILBERTO DUAVIT President, GMA Network Center EDSA cor. Timog Avenue Diliman, Quezon City

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