



**PAMBANSANG SAMAHAN NG MGA NARS NG PILIPINAS, INC.**  
**(PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC.)**  
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**Position Paper Opposing Institution of  
Practical Nursing Program in the Philippines**

We, the nursing sector representing all the nursing associations, specialty groups and other nursing institutions from public and private sectors, **declare our strong objection to the institution of Practical Nursing (PN) program and further oppose the insertion of PN by CHED** through a proposed ladderization of the nursing curriculum.

We deplore moves that impose upon the nursing profession, critical proposals like the PN program that gravely impact our nursing profession already saddled with a host of serious problems that need immediate meaningful intervention.

Well-trained health workers save lives! (WHO, 2006). This is the Human Resource for Health (HRH) Development philosophy currently pursued around the world espoused by the World Health Organization. It seems that the current efforts on health human resource development are not harmonized with this dictum.

Philippine trained nurses have been and are in high demand globally particularly because of the quality of professional nurses being produced in the country. To date, the Philippines may be the only country with a single preparation at the Bachelor of Science in Nursing level, which prepares professional nurses for service, academic and leadership positions here and abroad. There is definitely a global demand for professional nurses, not for practical nurses.

We are unequivocally opposed to the institution of practical nursing on three major points:

1. There is no local demand nor positions for practical nurses within the Philippine Health Care Delivery System particularly in the light of the oversupply of nurses and subsequent unemployment of graduate nurses;
2. There is no global demand for foreign-trained practical nurses, only for professional nurses; and
3. There is no licensure of practical nurses provided for in the Philippine Nursing Act (RA 9173) and therefore the institution of practical nursing programs has no legal basis.

To further substantiate these points, we offer the following:

1. There is already an oversupply of different types of health workers in the Philippine health care system, with nurses comprising the biggest number. Adding another type of health worker will further bloat the health manpower amidst a market unable to absorb this production level. We have about 65,000 newly registered nurses just in 2007. In the coming years, we expect some 100,000 new hopefuls who will be churned out yearly by the country's 460 nursing schools many of whom will be unemployed. This does not even consider the vast numbers who do not pass.
2. As it is, the quality of nursing education is already deteriorating because of the proliferation of poor performing nursing schools that are not effectively monitored and regulated. By CHED's account, only 12 nursing programs are recognized as excellent while an additional 18 were identified as highly performing in terms of board performance and quality to ensure that their students acquire the nursing competencies to deliver quality health care. There is not enough training capacity within the country with only about 20 percent of about 1,600 hospitals that have formal training capacities. With the introduction of the Practical Nursing program, we will further tax the already overburdened training hospitals and nurse preceptors. In the end, the safety and well-being of the patient is compromised and endangered.
3. The protection of public safety is a key policy goal that Philippine nursing shares with all other health professions. The Filipino people who will benefit from well trained human resources should likewise be a major concern of education, business and other sectors.
4. Many countries notably, USA, Canada and UK, are currently considering adopting a single standardized nursing program such as what we have in the Philippines. In Canada, a definite move towards a single BSN preparation for their nurses is happening. In view of this, introducing the PN program is a global trend regression and untenable.

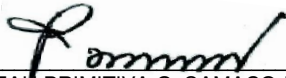
We are convinced that the proposal to introduce the PN may not be an effective economic strategy. Instead of creating more jobs, it will lead to more unemployment and exploitation by unscrupulous businessmen who see this as another income opportunity in enrolling young people without real job opportunities both here and abroad. The bigger stake here is the welfare of would-be enrollees, the unemployed nurses, and ultimately, the welfare and safety of the Filipino patient.

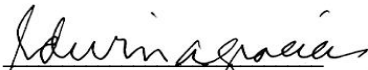
We believe that there are already viable propositions that we need to revisit and review to effectively address the critical issues confronting nursing systems (both practice and education, including all HRH involved in the provision of nursing services) as part of the bigger picture of a national health situation just as grim. The proposed introduction of the PN program is not part of the solution.


We therefore strongly recommend that moratorium on the operation of existing practical nursing program be imposed and that serious review of this program be undertaken in proper consultation with the critical stakeholders to close existing PN programs that have no mandate. It is not fair to urge for the revision of the Philippine Nursing Law just to legitimize these programs.


We reiterate our firm objection to the institution of Practical Nursing program in the Philippines to promote a progressive nation.

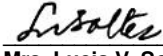
**INSTITUTIONALIZING PRACTICAL NURSING IS A STEP BACKWARD IN PROGRESS ... NOT FORWARD!**


  
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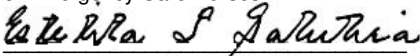
  
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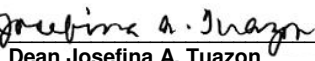
  
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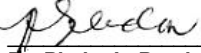
  
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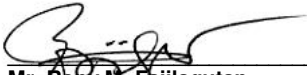
  
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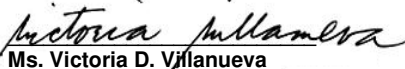
  
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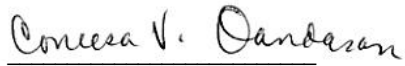
  
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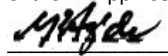
  
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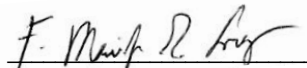
  
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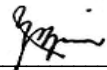
  
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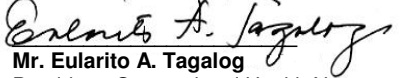
  
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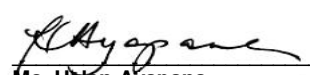
  
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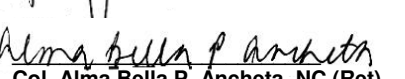
  
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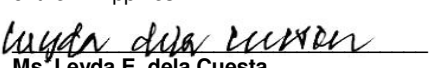
  
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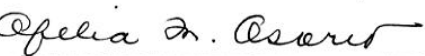
  
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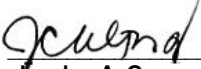
  
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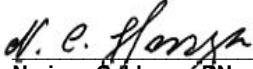
  
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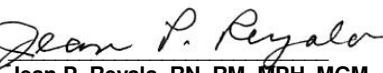
  
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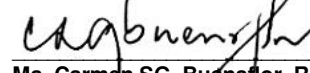
  
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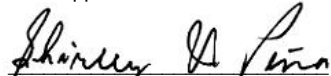
  
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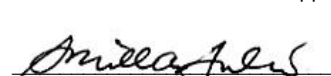
  
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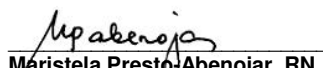
  
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