



Republic of the Philippines

## NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

February 6, 2018

**SECRETARY ALLAN PETER S. CAYETANO**

Department of Foreign Affairs  
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Dear **Secretary Cayetano**:

We are pleased to inform you that the country will commemorate the 14<sup>th</sup> Women with Disabilities Day on March 26 this year pursuant to Proclamation No. 744 dated 6 December 2004 titled "**Declaring the Last Monday of March Every Year as Women with Disabilities Day**". Copy of which is attached for your ready reference and guidance.

As mandated by the above-cited Presidential issuance, this Council is directed to ensure the Day's observance in partnership with other agencies of the national government, local government units and non-government organizations, among others.

This year's celebration adopts the theme "**#ProgresstoSuccess: Babaeng Maykapansanan sa Pagbabago, Manguna at Manindigan Ka**", which captures the cherished desires of women with disabilities among other marginalized groups to lead and push for societal reforms geared toward their empowerment and full participation in all aspects of human endeavors.

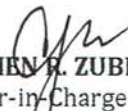
In this regard, we would like to request the issuance of a Department Order or similar directive addressed to your heads of Bureaus, Regional Offices and attached agencies to require them to extend full support to the observance of the above-mentioned celebration by conducting fitting activities, such as but may not be limited to the following:

- Forum on Employment and Entrepreneurship for Women with Disabilities
- Seminar on the Rights of Women with Disabilities
- Talents Showcase of Women with Disabilities
- Others

It is also requested that hanging of streamers in the conspicuous places in their respective agencies be also made. The design and its specifications including the prescribed dress code can be downloaded at [www.ncda.gov.ph](http://www.ncda.gov.ph). For other inquiries, you may kindly send it to us thru email at [iecdncda@gmail.com](mailto:iecdncda@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/nationalcouncilondisabilityaffairs](http://www.facebook.com/nationalcouncilondisabilityaffairs). You can also contact the staff-in-charge, Mr. Rizalio R. Sanchez and/or Ms. Barbara P. Ganaden, thru Mobile Phone Nos. 0921-7554905 and 0923-9383729, respectively, or at Telephone Nos. 951-5013 and 932-6422 local 111.

We look forward to your consideration and approval of the foregoing request.

Very truly yours,

  
**CARMEN R. ZUBIAGA**  
Officer-in-Charge

Encl.: as stated.

**MALACAÑANG**

Manila

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 744**

**DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF MARCH EVERY YEAR AS WOMEN WITH  
DISABILITIES DAY**

**WHEREAS**, the total development and empowerment of women is a State policy enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution which specifically provides that “The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men” (Section 14, Article II);

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution further provides that.. “The State shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation” (Section 14, Article XIII);

**WHEREAS**, in order to translate these Constitutional provisions into action, Republic Act 7192, otherwise known as the “Women in Development and Nation Building Act”, was passed and enacted into law by Congress;

**WHEREAS**, a number of policies were issued by the national government enjoining women to participate actively and meaningfully at all levels, of policy-making and governance such as Proclamation No. 224 issued on March 1, 2004, “Declaring the First Week of March Every Year as Women’s Week and March 8, 1998 and every year thereafter as Women’s Rights International Peace Day” in commemoration of the struggle of Filipino women for national freedom, civil liberty, equality and human rights;

**WHEREAS**, women with disabilities are also part of society and as such deserve equal rights in the field of law and in all aspects of human endeavor;

**WHEREAS**, in dealing justly with the rights of women with disabilities and in order for the Philippine government to comply with the regional mandate prescribed under the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) for Action Towards and Inclusive Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific adopted on October 25-28, 2002 by the United Nations-Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), this proclamation is being issued for the purpose.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines , by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the last Monday of March of every year as “**WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES DAY**”.

The National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP), in partnership with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), and other concerned organizations, is hereby directed to ensure the observance of the Women with Disabilities Day. Likewise, the NCWDP, with the assistance of the NCRFW will specifically highlight and integrate the needs and concerns of the women with disabilities in the Comprehensive Plan of Action for persons with disabilities.

All head of departments, chiefs of bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the national government are hereby instructed to implement plans,

programs and activities geared toward the fulfillment of the human rights of the women with disabilities.

Local chief executives and other officials of local government units are hereby encouraged to implement plans, programs and activities geared towards the fulfillment of the human rights of the women with disabilities.

Specifically, all concerned agencies should ensure equal access of women with disabilities to health services, education, training and employment and protection from sexual and other forms of abuse. They are also directed to implement programmes to raise public awareness of the situation of women with disabilities and to promote positive attitudes, role models and opportunities for their development. The NCRFW shall integrate the concerns and needs of the women with disabilities in the national plan for women.

The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this proclamation shall be sourced from the five percent (5%) of each agency's budget for gender and development (GAD) provided in the yearly General Appropriations Act and from other funds to support the implementation of the national plan of action for women.

Non-government organizations and self-help groups among women with disabilities, as well as other organizations, are hereby enjoined to take full cognizance of this proclamation and to fully cooperate in the attainment of its goal and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**  
President of the Philippines

By the President:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO R. ERMITA**  
Executive Secretary

AGENCY  
LOGO

NAME OF AGENCY



*joins the nation in the celebration of the*

**14<sup>th</sup> WOMEN  
with Disabilities Day Celebration**  
**March 26, 2018**

Theme:  
“#ProgresstoSuccess: Babaeng  
Maykapansanan sa Pagbabago  
Manguna at Manindigan Ka”

Theme: "ProgresoSuccess: Babaeng Maykapansanan sa Pagbabago Manguna at Manindigan Ka"

