



Republic of the Philippines

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

NCCA Advisory on the 42nd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (NDPR) week celebration (July 17-23, 2020)

I. PURPOSE:

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCCA) issued this advisory for the information and guidance of all stakeholders who will be participating in the said week-long celebration to ensure compliance to the guidelines set by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the management of emerging infectious diseases (IATF) that non-essential mass gatherings or community assemblies are prohibited during the general community quarantine (GCQ) and modified GCQ.

II. LEGAL BASIS:

- Proclamation No. 361, declaring the third week of July as the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week which shall culminate on the birthdate of the sublime paralytic: Apolinario Mabini on July 23 each year.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Article 8 - Awareness-raising provides that the Philippines as State Party to the Convention shall undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures: (a) "To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities". Furthermore, the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Concluding observations stated in paragraph 18 the following: The Committee is concerned about: (a) "The emphasis of the State party on prevention of impairment rather than inclusion and exercising rights, and that public resources are allocated to annual events that reinforce the medical approach to disability". While in paragraph 19, the Committee recommended: (a) "Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to foster a positive image of persons with disabilities as human rights-holders"; (b) "Ensure that awareness-raising activities recognize the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, and adopt the human rights model of disability as a key strategy to strengthen public awareness regarding disability".

III. THEME:

Pursuant to Article 28 of the UNCRPD, paragraph 1 "States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions"; paragraph 2, (a) "States Parties shall ensure equal access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs"; (b) "To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes". Thus, this theme is recommended:

"Together we demonstrate that the rights of children, women, and senior citizens with disabilities to have access to foods, medicines and assistive devices is important to us; Prioritizing it during this COVID 19 pandemic."

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IV. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. All NGOs, organizations of persons with disabilities, Local Government Units (LGUs) and National Government Agencies participating in the NDPR week celebration are encouraged to develop their advocacy materials and implement activities in support of the theme in accordance with their vision and mission.
- b. The NCDA and DSWD Regional Focal Persons on Disability will undertake activities at the LGU level that will highlight the rights of persons with disabilities to have access to foods, medicines and assistive devices to demonstrate inclusion in various ways ensuring that nobody is left behind in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These activities include distribution of food packs to all persons with disabilities, medicines to children with disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, assistive devices e.g. tablets, pocket wi-fi or transistor radios to support children with disabilities' education during the implementation of the blended learning strategies of the Department of Education. All stakeholders who will be participating in the celebration may coordinate with NCDA or DSWD Regional Focal Persons and furnish copy of their schedule of activities for consolidation and monitoring. Schedule of the activities during the NDPR celebration will be posted in the NCDA Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/nationalcouncilondisabilityaffairs/>) for dissemination.
- c. All stakeholders are advised to comply with all the health and safety protocols implemented during the community quarantine period in the conduct of their NDPR week activities.

Issued this 18th day of June 2020.

MATEO A. LEE, JR., CESO III
Officer-in-Charge

Attached herewith is the directory of DSWD RCDA Focal Persons for reference.