

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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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

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 1870 which was issued on June 22, 1979 has been declared in observance of the 3rd Week of July as the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week;

WHEREAS, July 23 is the birthday of our Sublime Paralytic, Apolinario Mabini, whose exemplary and dedicated heroic acts during the Philippine Revolution has greatly influenced the declaration and observance of the disability prevention and rehabilitation which in effect, has become an outstanding icon for persons with disabilities (PWDs);

WHEREAS, the National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled Persons (NCWDP) created under Presidential Decree No. 1509, was mandated to serve as the central authority which will direct, coordinate, and integrate planning and management as well as implementation of all activities, public and private, pertaining to the welfare of the handicapped;

WHEREAS, it is the national interest to stimulate public awareness on the problems of disability, and encourage every citizen to take active responsibility in the upliftment of the economic and social conditions of the PWDs of our society; thereby, encouraging them to take pro-active roles in nation building. This necessitates the re-affirmation of support by this Government in partnership with the Pilipinong May Kapansanan Foundation, Inc., hand in hand with concerned agencies— spearheaded by NCWDP, as well as NGOs with and through the participation of the Filipino citizenry.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby declare the third week of July every year 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" under the auspices of the National Council for the Welfare of the

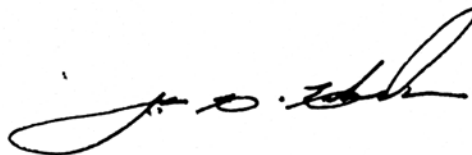


Disabled Persons. In the celebration for the week, all public and private welfare agencies are hereby enjoined to participate and cooperate actively in propagating the plight of the PWDs. Any financial contributions and/or fund-raising shall be tax-exempt, (which shall include the sweepstakes draw, among others.)

I call upon the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the National Historical Commission, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Postal Corporation, and other government agencies, as well as the mass media and the entire citizenry to extend their wholehearted support and cooperation on this worthy undertaking.

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 19th day of August in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand.



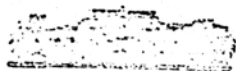
By the President:

RONALDO B. ZAMORA
Executive Secretary

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AUG 25 2000

Date



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