



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

1663 F. T. Benitez St.,  
Malate, Manila 1004  
Philippines

Telephone: 5210937 / 4004430  
Telefax: 5251596  
E-mail Address: philippinenursesassociation@yahoo.com.ph  
Website: www.pna-ph.org

**PRESS Statement**

**DECISION OF BICAMERAL CONFERENCE:  
DENIES FILIPINO NURSES' RIGHT TO HUMANE SALARIES,  
A DISRESPECT TO NURSING LAW (RA 9173)**

The Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) vehemently declares the decision of the Bicameral Conference yesterday afternoon (June 1, 2009 at 3:00 pm) held in Tañada Room of Senate as an **"ACT OF INJUSTICE" and "INHUMANE TREATMENT" TO FILIPINO NURSES.** In the Salary Standardization Law III that was approved in the said Bicameral Conference, the entry salary of one nurse in the government has been pegged to Salary Grade 11 which in numerical terms means additional Php6,000 spread in 4 years. *"This is an act of injustice to Filipino Nurses"*, according to Dr. Teresita Irigo-Barcelo, the PNA National President. She further elaborated that in the last seven (7) years, the government deprived the Filipino Nurses of their right to Salary Grade 15 entry level salary mandated in the Nursing Law (Republic Act 9173). Thus, the decision of the Bicameral Conference literally "killed" the said law, denying Filipino Nurses' right to humane salaries.

The government remained deaf to the cry of our own nurses for a living wage. At the midst of global crisis and emerging health crisis such as the H1N1 pandemic issue, Filipino nurses delivered services to the best of their ability to save thousands of lives. But these nurses are also human beings with basic needs for survival. How can they serve more efficiently if they, too, are dying of hunger and are not able to access health services themselves because of starving salaries? How can the government respond to the prevailing health crisis if its poor citizens cannot access health services because thousands of Filipino nurses are leaving the country?

The Bicameral decision unmasked the government's apathy to the plight of our poor Filipino people who have no access to quality health services. With the disapproval of SG 15, thousands more nurses will leave the country aggravating the inaccessibility of poor people to health services. Filipino nurses must affirm its stand against all forms of injustice that denies the basic right of Filipino people to quality life!

Teresita I. Barcelo, PhD, RN  
National President  
June 3, 2009