



PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC.

(PAMBANSANG SAMAHAN NG MGA NARS NG PILIPINAS, INC.)

Member, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

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PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION'S PUBLIC STATEMENT ON CONGRESSWOMAN CYNTHIA VILLAR'S REMARKS

In the midst of this ongoing uproar over what Congresswoman Cynthia Villar has spoken, we in PNA appreciate the outpouring of support for our NURSES.

We are challenged by the statements of the senatorial aspirant, Cynthia Villar. She missed considering that NURSES play a vital role in today's delivery of health care. NURSING is a distinct profession, where NURSES are empowered to perform their work independently using critical and creative thinking. The BSN Program is a competency-based curriculum and the Philippines can boast of being one of the few countries where BSN is the entry level of nursing practice. This puts the Filipino NURSE ahead in the national and international market. With the myriad of new illness and health discomforts in our time, *"kailangan magagaling ang mga nars natin para sa ating bansa at para sa mundo."* We cannot just simply say: *"ano lang sila, parang mag-aalaga"*. Nursing is science-based and a profession which is duly regulated.

The Filipino NURSES are most appreciated here and abroad because of their intelligence and industry. Many are even awarded for their outstanding performance in the various fields of specialization, scientific researches and heroic acts during emergencies /disasters (so again, *"kailangang magagaling ang mga nars!"*)

We take this opportunity to enlighten our countrymen that Nursing is a profession. The BSN curriculum aims to produce a holistic professional NURSE with emphasis on the development of attitude, knowledge and skills integrating science and evidence-based practices for safe and quality nursing practice in the care of humanity. That to become a NURSE you must finish the degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and hurdle the grueling Board Examination given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).



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While some of our countrymen equate NURSING to patient care/home care, we want to emphasize to them that patient care/home care is only one aspect of our profession, while maintaining the integrity and dignity of the Filipino NURSES. We strongly detest the “room nurse” as alluded to by former Congresswoman Villar.

We have already proven that our NURSES are one of the best NURSES, if not the best in the world. The most recent recognitions were for two of our NURSES given by US President Obama: Ms. Menchu Sanchez for her “Extraordinary Care” and Ms. Cora Basa Tomalinas for being a “Champion of Change”.

Thus, we must all salute our fellow NURSES who opted to stay in the country and serve our countrymen by the invaluable health services they render to society; and those who are employed overseas, leaving their family and loved ones and contribute to global health development. With their sacrifices, they contribute to scaling our dollar reserves, hence helping our economy, not to mention the honor and glory they bring to our country all over the world.

We therefore call on the NURSES to continue with their good work and in making a difference as they touch lives. Now is the time to prove to the whole world that we are not only competent, we have a good sense of direction and a good sense of judgment used with wisdom and prudence. NURSES should continue raising their voices to promote health and well-being of our people as well as uphold the interests of the NURSING profession.

Consistent with our mission, we publicly declare that the association will always promote and protect the integrity of our profession! PNA supports candidates who value the importance of the NURSING profession.

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