



## **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: (632) 400 4430 / (632) 521 0937 / (632) 536 1888  
Telefax: (632) 525 1596  
E-mail Address: philippinenursesassociation@yahoo.com.ph  
Website: www.pna-ph.org

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### **NURSES' DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**

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Health is a right enshrined in the constitution yet it remains to be inaccessible for many Filipinos and families whose average income is below poverty level. Seven out of 10 Filipinos cannot afford essential health care. Preventable and infectious diseases continue to be the leading causes of mortality and morbidity. Tuberculosis and malnutrition are still disturbing realities in communities. Even targets to reduce infant and child mortality and improve maternal health as part of our government's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) appear difficult to attain in the next five years.

The new administration, under President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" C. Aquino III, stirs hope that every Filipino will now have access to quality health care through a centerpiece program called "Universal Health Care (UHC)." The program carries with it the promise that no Filipino would ever die because of lack of essential medicines or inadequate health facilities. UHC promises all Filipinos access to basic health care through a socialized health program that will insure the general population.

The more than 600,000 contingent of professional nurses competent in primary health care shall be at the forefront to deliver quality health services. We believe nurses can very well contribute to the attainment of the goals of a health program that will genuinely promote and protect the people's health, especially the poor and vulnerable sectors of society.

The people's health is a crucial gauge of a socially responsible and responsive leadership. And with the newly-elect President's avowed pursuit of and commitment to people's health, we, representatives of various nursing organizations manifest our unity with this mission.