



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

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC. Position Statement on The Senate Joint Resolution # 23 May 6, 2009

The Philippine Nurses' Association reiterates its position that Republic Act 9173, otherwise known as the Nursing Law of 2002 be implemented, specifically Section 32 that pegs the minimum base pay of nurses in public health institutions at Salary Grade 15. No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in whose term the Nursing Law was enacted declared it "the policy of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of the nursing profession by instituting measures that will result in relevant nursing education, humane working conditions, better career prospects and a dignified existence for our nurses."

After seven years, the government must give justice to Filipino nurses by implementing the salary grade 15 which is due them since 2002. Therefore, the PNA call on the Senate to ensure that there is genuine upgrading of salaries of nurses. The Senate Joint Resolution 23 must clearly state that the salary of the Nurse 1 position will start from Salary Grade 15. In that way, the government will correctly compensate the nurses who choose to stay here and serve the Filipino people despite the lure of better salary abroad.

The hallmark legislation (RA 9173) mirrors the deep sentiments, aspirations and ideals of the Filipino nurses to accord our profession the dignity it deserves with just compensation and decent work-life conditions. Filipino nurses have been continuously contributing significantly in the economic development and protection of the quality life of the people. Alongside with the implementation RA 9173 is the provision of all the Magna Carta benefits of Public Health Workers.

The government is bound by its legal and moral mandate to ensure that the Nursing Law and the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, as laws of the land, are respected and implemented. The nurses and the nursing profession have suffered and wallowed long enough under deplorable work conditions that have likewise bore down on the quality of nursing care. It has reneged on its responsibility and obligation for too long now. To continue doing so would already constitute a willful violation of the law and a breach in its covenant with the people.

We join the rest of the workers in government service and our fellow health workers in the public sector in the call for decent salary increases and better work conditions. Specifically, we call on the members of the Senate to listen to our plea that the Nursing Law be recognized and respected and its provisions be implemented immediately.

TERESITA IRIGO-BARCELO, PhD, RN
National President