

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 138, August 02, 2013]

AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO) NO. 56 (S. 2001) ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT, STRENGTHENING THE COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN (CWC) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to defend the right of children to assistance and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government enacted Republic Act (RA) No. 7610, otherwise known as the, "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act," declaring children as Zones of Peace and affirming the State policy of protecting and rehabilitating children gravely threatened or endangered by circumstances affecting their survival and normal development;

WHEREAS, our general obligation as a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict enjoins us to take all feasible measures to ensure that children under the age of eighteen are not recruited compulsorily into our Armed Forces and that members thereof who are under eighteen years of age do not take direct part in hostilities;

WHEREAS, EO No. 56 adopted the Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict (CIAC Program Framework) which addresses the alarming involvement of children in armed conflict, either as combatants, couriers, guides, spies, medics, cooks, or their recruitment for sexual purposes or in any other similar, non-combatant capacity and directs national government agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs) to implement the same, under the leadership of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP);

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Agreement was executed in 2007, constituting the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Armed Conflict (IAC-CIAC) which took on the task of implementing EO No. 56;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution Nos. 1539 (s. 2004) and 1612 (s. 2005) strongly urge Member States to establish a Monitoring and Reporting System on Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict, namely: 1) killing and maiming; 2) recruitment and use of children; 3) attack on schools and hospitals; 4) abduction of children; 5) rape and other grave sexual violence against children; and, 6) denial of humanitarian access;

WHEREAS, UNSC Resolution Nos. 1883 (s. 2009) and 1998 (s. 2011) call upon Member States to take decisive and immediate action against abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict and bring violators thereof to justice through international justice mechanisms and domestic criminal courts and call for

the integration of post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning, programs and strategies; and,

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987 provides for the continuing authority of the President to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby amend EO No. 56:

SECTION 1. Implementation of the CIAC Program Framework. The functions of OPAPP as lead agency in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the CIAC Program Framework, as enhanced and approved by the CWC Board, are hereby transferred to CWC.

SECTION 2. Inter-agency Committee on Children in Armed Conflict. The Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Armed Conflict (IAC-CIAC), constituted by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement signed on April 2007, is hereby formally established with the following members:

Chair: Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)

Members: Commission on Human Rights (CHR)
Department of Education (DepEd)
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
Department of the interior and Local Government (DILG)
Department of Health (DOH)
Department of National Defense – Armed Forces of the Philippines (DND-AFP)
Department of Justice (DOJ)
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
Philippine National Police (PNP)
Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC)
Presidential Management Staff (PMS)
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)

The CWC may require the participation of the heads of other departments and/or agencies, including government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and invite LGUs, and representatives from the private sector and the academe, as it may deem necessary.

In line with the enhancement of the CIAC Program Framework, as well as the change in the composition of the IAC-CIAC, the Chair and Members of the IAC-CIAC shall enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to delineate their specific functions and duties within 60 days from the effectivity of this EO.

SECTION 3. Functions of the IAC-CIAC. The IAC-CIAC shall advocate for the protection of children and the prevention of the involvement of children in armed conflict, and shall: