

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 709, February 26, 2008]

REDEFINING THE FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF DISABLED PERSONS WHICH IS RENAMED AS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS AND ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER 676 (2007) AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 232 (1987)

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly adopted on 6 December 2006 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under Resolution A/61/611 which recognizes the need to promote and protect the human rights and Fundamental freedoms of all persons with disabilities, and to promote the inherent dignity including those who require more intensive support;

WHEREAS, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was also adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 48th session on 20 December 1993 by virtue of Resolution 48/96 to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise the same rights and obligation as others, and to recognize the principles and policy guidelines in influencing the promotion, formulation and evaluation of policies, plans, programs, and actions at the national, regional and international levels to further equalize the opportunities for persons with disabilities;

WHEREAS, the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 December 1982 by virtue of Resolution 37/52 to promote effective measures for the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the realization of the goals of "**full participation**" of persons with disabilities in social life and development, and of "**equality**";

WHEREAS, the existing policy of the United Nations on disability provides the establishment of an office on disability affairs that should be under and attached to the highest office of the respective governments to facilitate coordination and monitoring of all matters attendant thereto;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution Article 13, Section 13 mandates the state to establish a special agency for persons with disabilities for their rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance, and their integration into the mainstream of society;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9442, Republic Act 7277 and Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 all provided the need for a strong agency to monitor and advocate the implementation of the programs and services for disabled persons of governmental agencies.

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1509 created the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons to provide persons with disability the fullest measure

of protection and assistance to develop their abilities;

WHEREAS, E.O. 232, Series of 1987 provided for the structural and functional reorganization of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP);

WHEREAS, the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP), by virtue of E.O. 676, Series of 2007, was transferred from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the Office of the President (OP);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines by virtue of the powers vested in me by laws and the Constitution, do hereby order:

Section 1. Purpose. This Executive Order shall redefine the functions and organizational structure of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) which shall be renamed as the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and which shall be attached to the Office of the President amending for the purpose Executive Order 676 (2007) and Executive Order 232 (1987).

Section 2. Powers and Functions of the Council. The National Council on Disability Affairs, hereinafter referred to as the "Council", shall have the following powers and functions:

1. Formulate policies and propose legislations concerning the rights and well being of disabled persons, and lead in the implementation of programs and services concerning the same;
2. Conduct consultative meetings and prepare symposia with all stakeholders, and undertake program evaluation and monitoring to ensure that comprehensive, relevant and timely programs and services are adequate and accessible to persons with disabilities;
3. conduct researches and studies relevant to formulated policies to promote and enhance at all levels the rights of persons with disabilities;
4. Establish, develop and maintain a data bank on disability in partnership with concerned government agencies and non-government organizations and strengthen the referral services to ensure availability of data to stakeholders and services to persons with disabilities including provision of assistive devices;
5. Establish and maintain linkages and networking with local and international organizations, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities to generate resources and to maximize utilization of existing resources and for purposes of convergence;
6. Serve as a national working body to promote and monitor implementation of national laws and international commitments;
7. Assist in the establishment of self-help organizations and the setting up of specific projects through the provision of technical and financial assistance to