

PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

29th Philippine Business Conference RESOLUTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT 28 November 2003, Manila Hotel.

Whereas, the Philippine population growth rate is projected to double every 29 years and has only a moderately declining growth rate;

Whereas, Resolution No. 2001-26 of the 27th Philippine Business Conference (PBC), held on 14-16 November 2001, highlighted the need “to formulate an explicit and effective population policy through measures, such as the encouragement of wider birth spacing, thus, reducing family size, through a strong national family planning program”;

Whereas, PCCI issued a statement on 23 May 2002 calling for a “strong national family planning program [that] must be in place to assist couples in achieving their desired family size and birth spacing by providing a policy environment conducive to acquiring the information, knowledge, and the means to do so, thus, slowing down population momentum”;

Whereas, PCCI’s concern was reiterated in Resolution 10.1 of the 28th PBC held last 11-13 December 2002 requesting that Government and Private Sector join efforts to:

1. Provide functional education (both classroom and distance learning) and skills development programs/projects;
2. Give top priority to building strategic infrastructure for the transportation systems so that economic opportunities can flow to the countryside; thus, decongesting population in the urban places;

3. Accelerate promotion and implementation of livelihood programs/projects, especially in the rural and agricultural areas wherein the formulation of the national population development program will be based on; and
4. Recognize the principle of responsible parenthood and the right, as well as the duty, of each couple to decide on the number of children they will have in accordance with their religious and moral convictions;

Whereas, President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her message to the Nation on the occasion of the 4th World Meeting of Families on 25 January 2003, noted that her population policy is based on Christian formation and the Constitution, defined through the basic principles of:

- a. Responsible parenthood,
- b. Respect for life,
- c. Birth spacing, and
- d. d. Informed choice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FOR GOVERNMENT TO VIGOROUSLY IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, AND COME UP WITH A PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE TO ADDRESS THE POPULATION PROBLEM ANCHORED ON THE CONCEPTS OF FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE.

RESOLVED FURTHER, THAT THESE PROBLEMS OF OVER-POPULATION IN THE URBAN AREAS BE PROVIDED PERMANENT RELIEF BY RELOCATING OUR POPULATION TO THE COUNTRYSIDE THROUGH THE PROVISION OF LIVELIHOOD, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURES.

Mr. Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis, Jr. (Signed)

President

Mr. Samie Lim (Signed)

Chairman

29th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibit