

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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It is my distinct honor to address all of you, my dear colleagues in the medical profession. Allow me to report on the various undertakings and thrusts by the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) in aid of our goal of serving our respective constituents.

The PMA, as a recap, is the umbrella organization of physicians in the country. It is the only Accredited Professional Organization in the field of medicine recognized by the Philippine Professional Regulation Commission.

It consists of 17 regions, each headed by an elected regional governor, organized under them are 119 component societies scattered all over the nation. At present, there are 8 specialty divisions, 81 specialty and subspecialty societies and 47 affiliate societies.

However, not all of the doctors in the Philippines are members of the Association. Of the members who are in good standing, 50% of our membership has not been actively involved in the activities of the Association. Some of them have retired or migrated in other countries.

As such, the current officers and members of the Board of Governors through the leadership of our President, Dr. Irineo C. Bernardo III, have decided to redesign the programs of the PMA in pursuant to the objectives of the Association.

1. Re-engineering or redesigning the PMA as an organization to make it more responsive to the changing needs of the members by decentralizing or devolving some of its powers to the local component societies;
2. Amending the by-laws to make it re-

sponsive to present and future situations;

3. Enhancing collaborative efforts with the government in the pursuit of National Health Objectives;
4. Assuring the general membership that we will be cautious in the management of its funds by applying the principles of transparency and accountability;
5. Continuing Professional Development for members that is parallel or aligned to global integration;
6. Enhance participation in environmental and climate change advocacies;
7. Strengthen the non-discriminatory principle that every physician regardless of his field of interest and specialization has his or her place on the practice of medicine;
8. Commitment to constant dialogue with allied health professionals and allied health providers;
9. Increase its strength in constructive but cautious engagement with the regulatory bodies of government and the legislature;
10. Raising public awareness on the role of physicians as leaders and vanguards of peoples health and well being.

With this thrust of the Association, programs were developed to guide the national leadership and all officers of all the component societies and associations under the PMA to work together to achieve the common goal of making our respective associations relevant and important to all our members.

As a profession, our main priority is our patients whom we have sworn to serve; but as leaders of our associations, our main

priority is to take care of our members and safeguard their interests with a sense of justice and fairness. At the same time,

make them proud again as Filipino physicians who are regarded with high esteem in our respective areas of responsibility.