



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Delivery time: 2.2 minutes (281 words)

GENERAL COMMENTS
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

on the Adoption of the Outcome of the Universal Review of the Philippines
36th Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, 22 September 2017 (3rd
Cycle)

delivered on behalf of the 5th Commission by

Karen S. Gomez Dumpit
Commissioner
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines comes before you at a time when human rights promotion and protection in our country is at a crossroads.

A culture of impunity continues and human rights are challenged on the ground by:

- the "relentless war against illegal drugs" that has resulted in thousands of deaths largely victimizing the poor,
- The extension of Martial Law in Mindanao and an active armed conflict that has caused internal displacements,
- the pursuit of a legislative agenda that reintroduces the death penalty and lowers the minimum age of criminal responsibility,
- the discovery of a secret detention cell and its denial by State agents,
- public threats, intimidation and false information against human rights defenders, journalists and oversight actors,
- And the vote in the House of Representatives to reduce our budget to 20 US Dollars, which was recently restored but with a possible 15 per cent reduction in the total budget proposal.

Thus, we reiterate our call:

- End impunity and adhere to the rule of law in the campaign against criminality,

- Ensure accountability, transparency and cooperation in investigations of human rights violations especially E - J - Ks, torture and enforced disappearances,
- Provide adequate protection for human rights victims, whistleblowers and witnesses,
- Prosecute all perpetrators,
- Honor its human rights obligations,
- Enable oversight mechanisms to perform their mandates,
- And respect the independence of the Commission on Human Rights.

Despite a disabling and exclusionary environment, we will continue to perform our constitutional duty in line with the Paris Principles. We will continue to engage government to defend the sanctity of life, the dignity of every person and the essence of human rights.

Mabuhay at Maraming Salamat Po.