



# PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**THEME: "BUILD, BUILD, BUILD PMA!"**

Member : World Medical Association (WMA)  
Co-Founder : Confederation of Medical Association in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO)  
Medical Association of Southeast Asian Nations (MASEAN)

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**January 24, 2019**

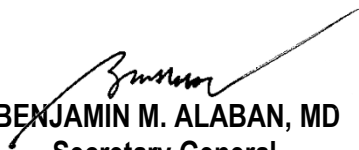
## POSITION PAPER OF THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON THE LOWERING OF THE AGE OF CRIMINAL LIABILITY

The Philippine Medical Association is one with and fully supports the stand of the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) in opposing the lowering of age of criminal liability to 9- or 12-year olds for the following justifications:


- 1 Children who may have transgressed the law are actually victims;
- 2 Children who may have transgressed the law are usually not acting on their own but primarily at the instance, intimidation or persuasion of an adult; hence, the proper action should be directed against an adult;
- 3 A child who may have transgressed the law should instead be cared for by the parents who must be required to undergo counseling and seminars in the proper rearing of children;
- 4 Children, not having been fully developed as a person, have lack of or limited appreciation of their actions, whether good or bad;
- 5 Placing children in a restrictive environment such as a Bahay Pag-asa would hinder their growth and development as persons;
- 6 A child notices the world around him or her and will emulate the actions of the elders. Placing a child in a Bahay Pag-asa with grown-up children with violent tendencies may inspire or influence a child to emulate such violent tendencies.

We strongly believe that this bill is a very improvident solution because children are not responsible for their misconduct and have absolute opportunity of rehabilitation if given the proper intervention.

Let us protect the rights of our children, but instead, strengthen the punishment for the syndicates who take advantage of these innocent children.



**BENJAMIN M. ALABAN, MD**  
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