

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Theme: "PMA: Working Together as One"

Member : World Medical Association

Co-Founder : Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO)

Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN)

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PMA POSITION ON STATEMENTS, OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS ON HEALTH AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

The PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (PMA) is the mother organization of all Physicians in the country, composed of more than EIGHTY THOUSAND (80,000) members in its roster, ONE HUNDRED NINETEEN (119) Component Societies – the Basic Unit of the PMA; in SEVENTEEN (17) REGIONS, from all the major cities and municipalities of the country from as far North as Batanes and Babuyan Islands; and General Santos City to the South. There are EIGHT (8) Major Specialty Divisions under its wings, namely: 1. Surgery, 2. Internal Medicine, 3. Obstetrics and Gynecology, 4. Pediatrics, 5. Family Medicine, 6. Anesthesiology, 7. Pathology, and 8. Radiology. Under the Specialty Divisions are 91 Specialty and Sub-Specialty Societies. There are also 38 Affiliate Societies recognized by the PMA.

The PMA is the ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION (APO) in Medicine by the PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) and is recognized by the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), and other Government and Private Agencies and Organizations on health in and outside the country.

The PMA is also one of the Founding Members of the MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (MASEAN), the CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ASIA AND OCEANIA (CMAAO), and a member of the WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (WMA). The PMA participates in the development and creation of policies, directives, proceedings and activities in these organizations.

Quite recently however, more particularly at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations of various forms, personalities, disciplines and expertise, have emerged and made or released statements and pronouncements in media and have even represented themselves in some government health agencies seemingly asserting that they belong to or represent a great majority of physicians and health practitioners. There are also individuals who claim to be experts in their own fields giving out opinions, views and interpretations that are sometimes opposed to, divergent or outright erroneous to proven scientific and medical data. All these combined, have caused confusion and misunderstanding among the general public, even among our health leaders and authorities and the scientific community as well.

The PMA, when its opinion is sought or when the need arises, shall use its vast resources, expertise and competencies and shall exercise due diligence through consultations and discussions with and through its Component Societies, Regions, Specialty Divisions, Specialty and Sub-specialty Societies and the strength of its individual membership to address questions and issues relating to health and the welfare of the general public most especially, the patients whom we serve.

It is with the above reasons that the PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (PMA) would like to categorically state and assert that only statements, declarations and announcements relating to health issues, i.e., COVID-19 related and other health matters, duly endorsed and supported by the PMA, and bearing the signature of the PMA President with the corresponding logo of the PMA, shall be considered as the official stand and position of the PMA on any health matter or issue as well as the practice of medicine.

The PMA is issuing this statement in order to clarify and define its position on matters relating to statements, declarations and opinions about health in general and the practice of medicine in our country.

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