PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Quezon City, Philippines

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MISSION
PROMOTE Neurological health for all
NUTURE the growth and welfare of our members
ADVANCE the expertise in the Neurological Sciences

VISION
Quality Neurological care for all.
Anytime. Anywhere

CORE VALUES
Benevolence
We are morally driven to act for the benefit of others
Resolute
We are committed to display an uncommon discipline, be
unwavering in our values, and display strength in adversity
Advocacy
We support and promote the rights of our patients and
healthcare workers and help build the capacity to improve
community health and achieve better health outcomes
Integrity
We set and maintain the highest ethical and professional
standards for ourselves, our staff and our programs
Nurturing
We promote the well-being of our members, our patients
and the communities we serve

POSITION STATEMENT

A CALL FOR ACTION

The Philippine Neurological Association and its affiliate
societies stand with the medical community in its unwavering
conviction to uphold what is just and good.

We condemn the irresponsible and selfish actions of
individuals who put themselves above the law, callous of the
common good and who belittle the supreme sacrifice that is required
of so many.

We call on all politicians and people in government to truly
embody the meaning of public service. It is NOT self-aggrandizement,
immunity from social and legal responsibilities and entitlement to
special privileges. It means – TO PUT YOURSELF LAST. Servant
leadership is the burden of public service and humility its
empowering force! At this time, thousands of healthcare workers,
civil servants and men and women in uniform put their lives and
their families at risk for the Filipino people. We ask you to ask
yourself: “What have I sacrificed for my country?” If it is greater than
what these brave Filipinos have done, then you are truly worthy to
be called a public servant.

We also call on our patients to do your part in this common
fight. The hospitals should be the last line of defense and not the first!
This pandemic will only end if we take the responsibility upon
ourselves, to follow the quarantine rules, to fully disclose your
histories to your doctors and to isolate yourselves from your own
families when even feeling the slightest symptoms. Too many lives
have already been harmed and sacrificed because patients didn't
fully disclose their histories and by irresponsible people who believe
that quarantine is a joke. Protocols are put in place so that maximum

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benefit can be attained with the least amount of resources spent. We cannot afford to clean up after every breach of protocol! Resources are utilized for activities that might have served a greater good.

We call on local government officials and hospital owners and executives to unite in forming localized COVID units/area hospitals as this pandemic has already found its way outside of the national capital region and affect the most vulnerable of our people, the poor and the least equipped of our medical institutions, provincial district hospitals. We believe that concerted efforts that are based on each hospital’s strengths will be the best way to go.

We call on the national leadership to mandate the LOCAL manufacture of protective equipment as a priority project and create measures to ensure the delivery of raw materials to manufacturing areas/companies. The private sector, professional associations and even families have answered the call to making their own protective equipment but access to materials is difficult. There are willing hands that seek to help, let us help empower them! China succeeded in their fight because they made sure the weapons to combat the disease were made within its shores.

The disease does not discriminate between the rich and the poor. It affects everyone but the resources available to help fight it discriminates against the poor and the powerless. We call on government to even the playing field, to set aside political affiliations and make sure services are given to those in greatest need.

We call on the Department of Health to remain steadfast in its pivotal role in stemming the tide of the disease and hope for your prompt, judicious action on the approval of treatment protocols, within ethical considerations, that will aid our health workers in combatting this plague. We implore you to join the multi-country trial SOLIDARITY sponsored by no less than the World Health Organization, focusing on drug therapies to combat COVID-19. It is a global problem and unless we join hands with the international medical community, we delay the help the world desperately needs.

We strongly advocate for the prioritization of testing for healthcare workers in the frontlines as we need to protect our warriors first and foremost. We shall continue to support the Department of Health in these difficult times. We pray that God will imbue you with His wisdom and forbearance to always stand up for what is right, for the benefit of the many and not for the pleasure of the few.
Sincerely,

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President

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Secretary

Robert A. Barja, MD, FPNA
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Anthony N. Piano, MD, FPNA
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Mari Fay M. San Diego, MD, FPNA
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Marietta C. Olaivar, MD, FPNA
Immediate Past President

With the concurrence and support of the following Specialty Associations and Patient Advocacy groups:

Veeda Michelle M. Anlacan, MD, FPNA
President, Alzheimer's Disease Association of the Philippines

Kristine B. Latorre-Mendoza, MD, FPNA
President, Child Neurology Society of the Philippines

Darwin A. Dasig, MD, FPNA
President, Dementia Society of the Philippines

Arlene R. Ng, MD, FPNA
President, Movement Disorder Society of the Philippines

Jean Marie B. Ahorro, MD, FPNA
President, Philippine League Against Epilepsy

March 26, 2020/PNA Position Statement