IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT FOR “BAKUNA ANG UNA SA SANGGOL AT INA”, ATTAINING WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS GOALS TO ELIMINATE MEASLES AND NEONATAL TETANUS, ERADICATE POLI...

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WHEREAS, the Philippines has set as one of its goals in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reduction of child mortality by two-thirds (2/3) by year 2015;

WHEREAS, the government already ratified the Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for children to attain the highest possible attainable level of health, survival and protection; and supported the World Health Assembly resolutions for improving child health and survival;

WHEREAS, the government has committed to the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific resolutions to eliminate/eradicate measles, neonatal tetanus, polio, and control diphtheria, hepatitis B, pertussis, and childhood tuberculosis by year 2008;

WHEREAS, since the year 2000, the country has already eradicated polio nationwide and has been sustaining its polio-free status;

WHEREAS, the mass measles vaccination campaign in 2004, otherwise known as the “Ligtas Tigdas 2004”, demonstrated a 96% unprecedented decline of measles cases and deaths and also led to institutionalization of safe injection practices, through the use of the auto-disabled needles and syringes in immunizations, and established an appropriate immunization waste disposal in support of the “Philippine Clean Air Act 1999” and “Solid Waste Management Act 2003”;

WHEREAS, elimination, eradication, control of the childhood vaccine-preventable diseases requires that at least 95% of our child population be fully immunized annually; that 80% of our pregnant mothers be vaccinated with tetanus toxoid to protect the new- born from neonatal tetanus and that all vaccine-preventable disease cases be detected, investigated and reported on a timely basis;

WHEREAS, low and unequally distributed routine immunization coverage in the country causes about 500,000 infants/children annually to remain unprotected, thus, rendering them susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases and thereby threatens the country to outbreaks/epidemics despite of the national purchases of a free, potent, and high-quality vaccines for all infants/children and mothers;

WHEREAS, another mass measles vaccination campaign will reduce the number of children at risk of getting measles infections;

WHEREAS, achieving 95% fully immunized children and mothers will require unified commitments on the national government, local chief executives, health workers, communities and all sectors of society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Objectives. – This Executive Order shall have the following objectives:

a.)Implement the national commitment for “Bakuna ang Una sa Sanggol at Ina”, Attaining World Health Organization’s Goals to Eliminate Measles and Neonatal Tetanus, Eradicate Polio, Control Hepatitis B and other Vaccine-preventable Diseases;

b.)Mobilize the national government, its agencies, instrumentalities, local government units, and other sectors of society in support of this national commitment.

SECTION 2. Implementing Agencies. –

A. Lead Agency: Department of Health (DOH)

The DOH, as lead agency, shall implement the “Bakuna ang Una sa Sanggol at Ina” to strengthen the routine reaching of all mothers and infants with safe and effective vaccines; and to identify, investigate and report vaccine-preventable disease cases.

It shall embark on a mass measles vaccination campaign for all children ages 9 months to 48 months old nationwide.

The DOH shall formulate, disseminate guidelines and procedures on implementing the “Bakuna ang Una sa Sanggol at Ina”, including the introduction of new vaccines based on analysis conducted by a technical working group; provide technical assistance to Local Government Units (LGUs); conduct national/regional advocacy and social mobilization activities; provide, allocate and distribute in a timely manner all the necessary vaccines; and monitor submission of required reports of all LGU health system activities.

Jointly with Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), it shall compile, disseminate and publish semi-annual reports of progress and performance on this immunization program.

B. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

The DILG shall advocate to all LGUs to achieve and maintain minimum standards of staffing, financial support, supplies and communication/advocacy to community representatives to achieve this goal. It shall submit quarterly reports of LGUs’ compliance to DOH.

C. Department of Education (DepEd)

The DepEd shall ensure the complete vaccination status of all children entering primary school. It shall further ensure that mothers of all children with incomplete immunization shall be informed of the immunization program being provided by the government. It shall coordinate with the local government health units for the complete vaccination of these children. It shall identify and report any case of suspected vaccine-preventable disease, which has met the standard case definitions, to the concerned local health units. It shall annually monitor the school entry lists to ensure compliance by all schools and submit annual reports of schools’ compliance to DOH.

D. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

The DSWD shall ensure the complete vaccination status of all children in day care centers and pre-schools during the first week of school. It shall further ensure that mothers of all children with incomplete immunization shall be informed of the immunization pro- gram being provided by government. It shall coordinate with the local government health units for complete vaccination of these children. It shall identify and report any case of suspected vaccine-preventable disease, which has met the standard case definitions to the concerned local health units. It shall annually monitor daycare centers/pre-schools entry lists to ensure compliance of these schools and submit annual reports of schools’ compliance to DOH.

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E. Council for the Welfare for Children (CWC)

The CWC shall coordinate with DepEd, DSWD, DILG and LGUs, to ensure that all incompletely vaccinated children in schools, day-care centers, pre-schools, and other places, to be fully vaccinated and correspondingly reported to DOH. It shall coordinate reporting of suspect vaccine-preventable disease cases among DOH, LGUs, DepEd and DSWD.

Jointly with DOH, it shall compile, disseminate and publish semi-annual reports of progress and performance on this immunization program.

F. Local Government Units (LGUs)

The LGUs shall ensure that every pregnant mother and infant are given complete immunization FREE OF CHARGE. Aside from the weekly health center-based vaccination sessions, it shall provide systematic outreach services to ensure full immunization of infants/children/mothers and other intervention that can save children’s/mother’s lives. They shall organize regular immunization outreach services and other essential maternal and child health package of services. They shall maintain the standards set by DOH for staffing, provide adequate needles and syringes; finance traveling expenses of BHWs to carry-out the follow-up on the immunization services. They shall conduct vigorous social mobilization activities.

All health workers, including doctors, nurses and midwives, shall fully participate in providing free immunization, regardless of route – intramuscular, oral, subcutaneous, intradermal. All LGUs shall submit accomplishment reports of the immunization coverage and activities as follows: provinces and chartered cities to report quarterly vaccine coverage to regions; municipalities and component cities to report monthly vaccine coverage to provinces.

The LGUs shall identify and report all suspected vaccine-preventable disease cases that meet the standard case definitions to the next higher level epidemiologic surveillance unit. They shall still submit weekly “zero reporting” even if there were no identified vaccine-preventable disease cases.

The LGUs shall conduct regular Supplemental Immunization Activities (SIAs) and/or “Child Health Days”, as determined by, and according to the guidelines of DOH.

G. Civil Society

All members of the civil society, non-government organizations, professional organizations, and other concerned groups, are encouraged to support this national commitment for “Bakuna and Una sa Sanggol at Ina”, through issuances of resolutions, letters, and other mechanisms of information dissemination and social mobilization, to all members of their organizations.

Any children vaccinated outside the public health system should be reported to the local government unit. They shall identify and report any suspected vaccine-preventable disease cases meeting the standard case definitions to local government health units.

SECTION 3. Funding – The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide funds for the procurement of quality vaccines for all eligible population. The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall provide funds for the procurement and disposal of auto-disabled needles and syringes for immunizations; traveling expenses for the mobilization of health staffs to reach and immunize all the infants/children and mothers and for other related activities.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause – All other rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. – This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Adopted: 21 Sept. 2007

(SGD.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(SGD.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

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