

Republika ng Pilipinas KAGAWARAN NG KALUSUGAN PAMBANSANG SANGUNIAN SA NUTRISYON (NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL) NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Nutrition Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension Taguig City, Philippines



RNC-NCR RESOLUTION NO. 02 Series of 2009

RESOLUTION ENJOINING ALL REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TO PUT UP BREASTFEEDING STATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES

WHEREAS, the Philippines is committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly on goal number 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by reducing to half the proportion of households below the minimum dietary energy consumption and underweight children 0-5 years old; and goal number 4 on reducing child mortality;

WHEREAS, based on the 2008 results of the National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, infants, children, pregnant and lactating women are affected with malnutrition problems;

WHEREAS, based on the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey, the underfive mortality rate in 2005 was 3.4%;

WHEREAS, based on 2008 NDHS, exclusive breastfeeding is still not common in the Philippines, where only 34% of infants are exclusively breastfed;

WHEREAS, the Global Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategy developed in 2003 by the World Health Organization and United Children's Fund states that "infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life to achieve optimal growth, development and health. And should receive nutritionally adequate and safe complementary foods while continuing breastfeeding up to two years or beyond";

WHEREAS, the 2008 Lancet's series on maternal and child undernutrition revealed that promotion of breastfeeding is an effective and feasible intervention in reducing infant and young child mortality;

WHEREAS, optimal infant and young child feeding means that mothers are empowered to initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth, breastfeed exclusively for the first six months and continue to breastfeed for two years or more, together with nutritionally adequate, safe, age appropriate, responsive complementary feeding starting in the sixth month;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7600 or "The Rooming-In and Breastfeeding Act of 1992" adopts the practice of rooming-in as a national policy to encourage, protect and support the practice of breastfeeding. It shall create an environment where physical, emotional, and psychological needs of mothers and infants are fulfilled through practice of rooming-in and/or breastfeeding;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Administrative Order 2005-0014 and National Policies on Infant and Young Child Feeding includes the provision of workplace and environment that enables breastfeeding (Sec V article 11-12);

WHEREAS, the House Bill No. 06661, "An Act Promoting Breastfeeding by Establishing and Maintaining Lactation Stations in Workplaces for Working Mothers, Providing for Penalties for Violation thereof and for other purposes", approved last February 2004 during the third reading at the House of Representatives aims to make mandatory the establishment of lactation stations in workplaces where there are more than 10 employees;

WHEREAS, the lactation station must include a lavatory for hand-washing, adequate refrigeration facilities and comfortable seats. Nursing female employees are to be given reasonable time during working hours to express milk in lactation stations, which shall be considered compensable hour;

WHEREAS, the January 2008 Labor Force survey showed that 38.42% or 13.9 million of the total labor force in the Philippines are women;

WHEREAS, despite the measures and known benefits of breastfeeding to both mother and the baby, a lot of challenges await lactating women who want to breastfeed in the workplaces like lack of break time, inadequate facilities for pumping, expressing and storing milk, lack of resources information that promote breastfeeding, and lack of support from employers and colleagues.

NOW THEREFORE, on motion duly seconded, **BE IT RESOLVED**, as the Committee hereby resolves to enjoin all Regional Offices of the National Government Agencies in NCR to put up functional Breastfeeding Station in their respective offices including the Agency Operating Procedures;

RESOLVED FURTHER, copies of this resolution be furnished to the National Nutrition Council-Central Office and regional offices of the National Government Agencies in NCR.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED this 10th day of December 2009 at Pasig City.

JRMAL. ASUNCION, MD, MHA, CESO VI

OIC-Regional Director Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Metro Manila and Chair, Regional Nutrition Committee, NCR

Attested by:

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