

# November declared National Children's Month

Rainier Allan Ronda - June 6, 2015 - 10:00am

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino has signed Republic Act 10661 declaring the month of November as the National Children's Month.

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) said the law mainly changed the month of the celebration from October to November to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 20, 1989 and the Philippines' signing of the CRC.

The law seeks to instill the significance of adoption of the CRC by the UN in the Filipino consciousness.

Patricia Luna, CWC executive director, said they welcomed the enactment of the law.

However, she said the council has issues on adding the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as lead agencies tasked to prepare and implement an annual program of activities to celebrate the NCM.

Previous presidential proclamations mandating the celebration of National Children's Month tasked only the CWC as lead agency supervising the celebration of the month. The CWC is a council attached to DSWD with the social welfare secretary automatically serving as CWC chairman.

"But the objective in itself (changing the month to November to highlight the adoption of the CRC) was very good," Luna said.

As lead agencies, the CWC, DSWD and NYC are all authorized to call on "any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, for assistance as may be needed in the discharge of the tasks under this Act."

"The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall facilitate and encourage the commemoration of this month in schools, public and private, nationwide," the law stated.

The Philippine Information Agency, in coordination with the DSWD, DepEd, CHED, NYC and CWC, shall ensure the effective information dissemination of this Act, the law also ordered.

It also encouraged all local government units and private organizations, including civil society, private enterprises and nongovernment, civic and people's organizations, to observe National Children's Month in simple rites and participate in activities.

Presidential Proclamation 267, issued in 1993 by then President Fidel Ramos, had set the month of October as National Children's Month.

Ref.: <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015/06/07/1463080/november-declared-national-childrens-month>

**Look also [www.children.aboutphilippines.ph](http://www.children.aboutphilippines.ph)**