



Press Statement

25 March 2014

## **Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health for Inclusive Growth**

We, the undersigned business groups, reaffirm our strong support for the immediate implementation of RA 10354, the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 or the RH Law. We maintain our position that this health measure, which underwent more than 14 years of thorough deliberation and definitively passed by both chambers of Congress, reflects the true will of the people and is an illustration that democracy prevails in our nation.

Consistent with our statements last August 2012 and October 2010, we reiterate our unequivocal opposition to any measure that condones abortion in any way and limits free choice. The RH Law successfully hurdles these concerns. In fact, we strongly believe that the law protects and enhances the people's Constitutionally-enshrined rights to life and good health, freedom of choice, and a living wage and income.

While we await the resolution of the law's fate by the Supreme Court, we remain steadfast in our stand that responsible parenthood and reproductive health are significant components of the country's direct strategy for poverty reduction and improved maternal and child healthcare. The RH Law, therefore, is a complement to current and proposed initiatives to address long-standing challenges to the country's development. As such, in our goal to attain sustainable and inclusive growth, the RH Law must be fully and properly implemented without delay.

We call on the supporters of the RH Law to continue to publicly express support for the law's immediate implementation, and we urge opposing parties to see the pragmatic wisdom behind this critical piece of legislation.

**Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP)**  
**Makati Business Club (MBC)**  
**Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)**  
**Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCCI)**

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