

[PROCLAMATION NO. 744, December 06, 2004]

**DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR AS
WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES DAY**

WHEREAS, the total development and empowerment of women is a State policy enshrined in the Philippine Constitution which specifically provides that..."The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men" (Section 14, Article II);

WHEREAS, the Constitution further provides that..."The State shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation" (Section 14, Article XIII);

WHEREAS, in order to translate these Constitutional provisions into action, Republic Act 7192, otherwise known as the "Women in Development and Nation Building Act", was passed and enacted into law by Congress;

WHEREAS, a number of polices were issued by the national government enjoining women to participate actively and meaningfully at all levels of policy-making and governance such as Proclamation No. 224 issued on March 1, 2004, "Declaring the First Week of March of Every Year as Women's Week and March 8, 1998 and every year thereafter as Women's Rights and International Peace Day" in commemoration of the struggle of Filipino women for national freedom, civil liberty, equality and human rights;

WHEREAS, women with disabilities are also part of society and as such deserve equal rights in the field of law and in all aspects of human endeavor;

WHEREAS, in dealing justly with the rights of women with disabilities and in order for the Philippine government to comply with the regional mandate prescribed under the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) for Action Towards an Inclusive Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific adopted on October 25-28, 2002 by the United Nations-Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), this proclamation is being issued for the purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL -ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby declare the last Monday of March of every year as **"WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES DAY"**.

The National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP), in partnership with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NRFW), and other