



ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

CY 2022

Prepared by: Planning Division – Planning and Management Office



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Message of the Chairperson Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

This Annual Accomplishment Report of the Commission on Human rights (CHR) for the year 2022 would probably be one of the most notable reports produced by the institution across decades under different political regimes. Remarkable and historic breakthroughs were going on in the backdrop when data and information for this report were developing from the beginning of the year and throughout its entirety. This report is exceptional too as it contains an account of how the CHR performed its various roles as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) within and despite a period of momentous changes—milestones that were widely perceived as bringing forth lasting consequences to the national life and its future.



Coming from such perspective, we take the opportunity and exercise the privilege to present this accomplishment report to all the relevant parties, partners and participants, who join us as stakeholders and collaborators in the task of setting alight continually the human rights path today and the times ahead us. This is on behalf of the CHR, led by the 5th Commission En Banc that was incumbent until 2022, and the current 6th Commission.

In 2022, we found ourselves under a new government administration. We are proud to say that despite the political tensions in the last quarter of 2021 and further on following May 9th of 2022, a phase that convulsed decades of history including the CHR's origins as a distinct progeny of the 1987 Constitution, the Commission as a key stakeholder, remained steadfast in upholding the principle of non-partisanship and independence. In the midst of the highly polarized and embittered campaign undertakings by contenders from across political loyalties and party platforms, the CHR proved itself a true NHRI. It firmly adhered to its inherent commitments as prescribed by international human rights agencies, i.e., the UN Human Rights Council, to reiterate and urge for the exercise of the right of suffrage as a fundamental political right. In the same vein, the Commission appealed that all electoral parties and agencies uphold participatory and informed decision-making, in the interest of post-elections national recovery and reconciliation.

Insofar as the present, the panoramic view of the Philippines that we hold and behold under the new government is now ours to further sketch on, refurbish and polish. It is a canvass for our just and legitimate agendas. For CHR, as per its mission and goals, these collective targets will always serve as the ethical compass to guide its many tasks and responsibilities. The very same human rights philosophy and ethics will serve as our platform as we continue to be an independent agency, created and mandated through many years by the Philippine Constitution.

While 2022 now stands in history as a landmark year, what we do and accomplish beyond the timelines and in between would spell the difference. We know that we might have to choose between harder and easier ideas and actions to find both remedies and enduring solutions to our problems as a people, including overcoming the many challenges to human rights. The CHR stands vigilant to meet the complexities and crises that will persist while strictly observing and adhering to the powers allowed by its mandate.

Let us keep in mind the battle cry statements we have clamored together in 2022—in solidarity, in speeches, and in songs, that inspired and brought us side by side towards our common goal of good governance and a truly representative democracy. Then and now, it is mainly through a rights-based approach to reforms and development—the kind that reaches and benefits the neediest, the most marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society, that the governance we aspire for, can be had.

In a statement released on the day the country chose its leaders, the CHR explicitly called on the citizenry to exercise their right of suffrage and cast their vote. On the other hand, we say today and henceforward, “The CHR enjoins you, the people, to exercise, protect and advance ALL of your rights and liberties enshrined in the Philippine Constitution and under all international instruments in force embodying your entitlement to human rights. By the same token, we urge the government and its agencies to respond, to respect, and to fulfil.

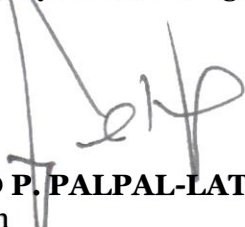


It is upon my leadership, as your incumbent Chairperson, to make certain that under the term of office I have been entrusted with, the CHR will remain unswerving in its work. The Commission will press forward and steady, making accessible to ALL its programs and services while continuing to incorporate innovative systems and approaches that will shore up the impacts of its work as an NHRI. Under my watch, the Commission will emphasize not only the protection and promotion of human rights starting with and using the proactive methods and mechanisms to prevent violations, but also endorse, support and help enable the remedies and resolutions by partner government offices in pursuing accountability and the rule of law. Our interventions will be swift, impartial, just, and most of all humane.

Under my stewardship of the CHR, we will strive to be inspired and moved by the words and deeds of some of our most gallant human rights activists, one of whom I quote here from a speech entitled “I Have A Dream” who declared:

“We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

We dream and deliver, as Martin Luther King had envisioned, albeit not without the help of our fellow Filipinos and with the blessings of the Lord God Almighty. Indeed, as we continue to demand dignity for all, we urge that righteousness and justice for human rights be served.



RICHARD P. PALPAL-LATOC
Chairperson



I. Executive Summary

This section sums up the entire report for quick and easy reading. It steers the readers toward a functional grasp of what the CHR is all about, as it also submits the entire stretch and scope of institutional work in the service of human rights for the year 2022. In recapping, it provides the readers with accurate information on the highlights of CHR's performance for the period with an instant overview. In this fashion, it will be most useful not only for those who do not have time to go through the entire report. This will also serve the purpose of the institution's program managers and implementers, and all other stakeholders i.e., donors, counterpart agencies, policy and decision makers, the public at large, together with all other human rights partners, who might need consolidated information all at once.

While packing the entire annual report in a nutshell, this executive summary nonetheless provides a general and substantive idea of CHR outputs and accomplishments consisting of its core programs namely, protection, prevention, promotion, and policy advisory along with the non-front-line services. It further describes efforts of the institution to enable management systems and render support operations by carrying out and sustaining development actions, general administration and logistical/technical services, financial and budget strategizing and coordination, monitoring compliance to good governance conditions, and infrastructure improvement efforts.

For a retrospective view, this summary cites in brief here a strategic action plan validated and finalized by the 5th Commission En Banc that led and charted institutional work in the previous six years. It is worth pointing out that the year 2022 serves as the one final year of the inclusive years (2016 – 2022) under the Strategic Options and Directions – a roadmap blueprinted by the then incumbent Commission while the CHR was navigating the very precarious human rights environment during the period. While CHR ably identified and confronted the particular issues that posed challenges, it also noted in said strategic plan the strong points and opportunities that can be activated to help propel forward its vision, mission and goals, and other crucial points of interest both in the national and international spheres. The targets for the period that culminated into 2022 were to “attain strategic objectives and organizational outcomes, specifically: violations of human rights effectively addressed and remedied; conditions of places of detention improved and Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) related incident checked; human rights culture evolved and sustained; human rights mechanisms strengthened; and transition to new leadership and priorities.”

With the foregoing, and as this report comes out in 2022, the outputs and outcomes corresponding to the major steps and milestones to reach strategic objectives and organizational goals would have been attained. On this account, this current annual report describes where the long tough journey has so far taken and set down the CHR in relation to the paths it had planned, paved and followed. It is not a document only for the CHR to contemplate on with respect to its entire work as an NHRI. It is also a framework for all stakeholders who share and support the goals and perspectives of the institution to consider, espouse and actively participate in.

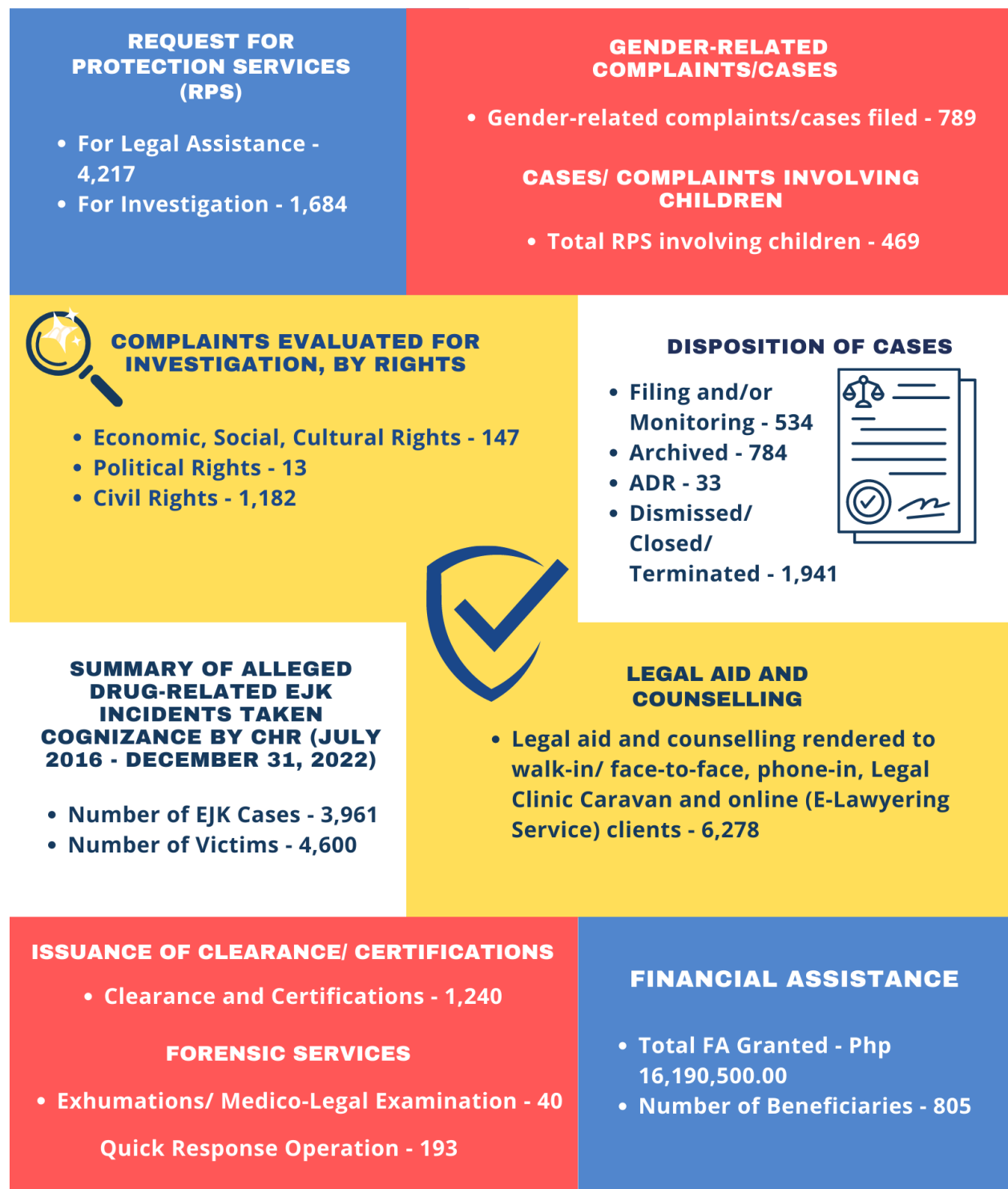
As a quick guidance, the presentation in this summary will be in a format that is mainly in visual images with text descriptions that are brief and compact as possible. It arrays only the salient points of the CHR periodic performance while facilitating appreciation of large amounts of data in clustered information. The extended and elaborated narratives are all contained in the main report.



Core Programs and Services

Protection Services

The program covers the entire complaints and case management process from documentation, investigation, resolution, referral, case monitoring, forensic analysis, financial assistance, issuance of human rights certification and clearance, and digital reporting and response actions. It includes all other adjunct services derived from its powers and mandates to protect victims from violations of their rights or from any abuse especially of the disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable. It integrates both preventive and protective measures and remedies working alongside complementary component programs. It works principally with the prevention cluster to enable the preventive aspects of the tasks.



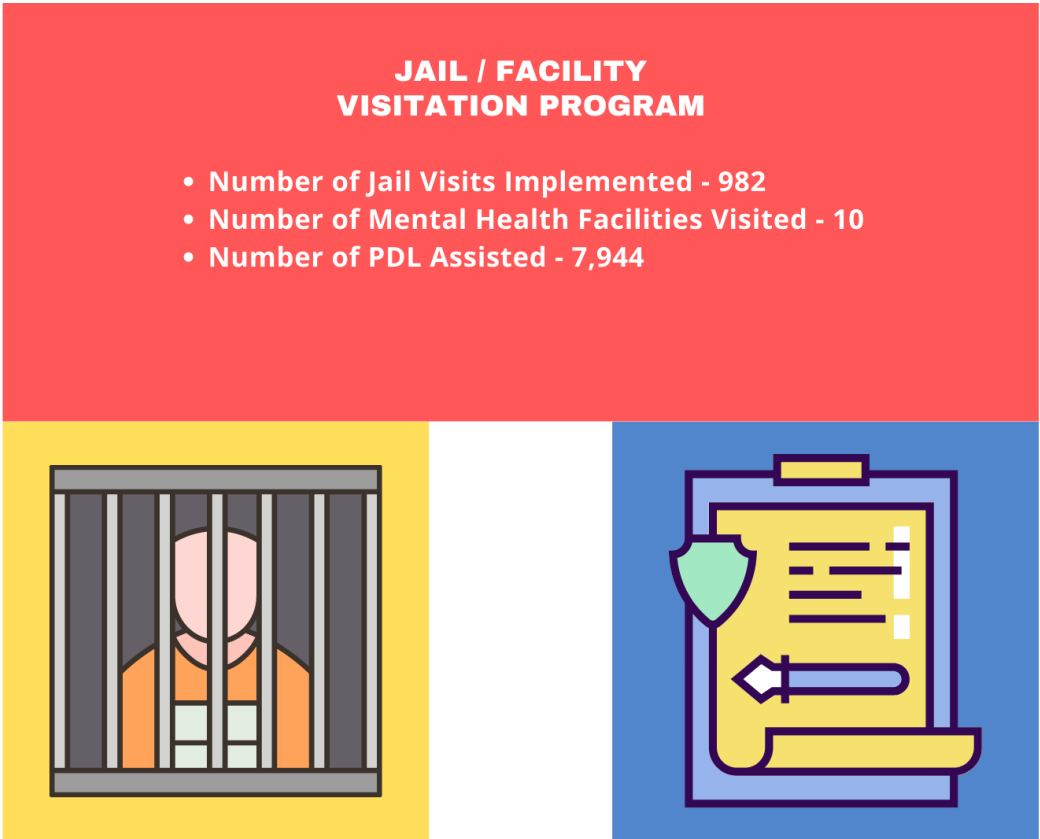


Prevention Services

The prevention services are an integral part of and a component of CHR’s authority to realize international and domestic policy and the parallel courses of action as an NHRI. The services reinforce the core programs with distinct interventions within the preventive framework. It functions in conjunction with the key programs thus serving jointly through its prevention cluster towards fulfilling a unified system for the CHR to perform its many and diverse roles.

Originally, the main tasks under the prevention services were to conduct jail visits including in places of deprivation of liberty (PODs) and render assistance to persons deprived of liberty (PDLs). The description of the tasks assigned to prevention services has been recently further elaborated to include full program duties consisting of administration, operationalization, coordination and program development tasks at the level of the central office all the way to the regional units. A major addition to its functions is the proposed creation and establishment of National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and the task of taking charge of its operations. This will enable the CHR to perform its role as an Interim National Preventive Mechanism (INPM), while awaiting the creation of domestic law/s that support such mechanism.

The NPMs are an upshot of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OpCAT) ratified by the Philippine Senate in 2012. As a national body that will act as a provisional NPM, the CHR through its prevention cluster is task-bound to enable the treaty in the country. Under the NPM, the prevention services through the implementation of the prevention cluster, will institute and operate a jail visitation program, implement and manage a national preventive monitoring program including conducting regular monitoring (guided by a visitation plan), and prepare and submit the national reports on the situation of the PDLs and CHR recommendations for policy reforms. The reports containing the findings and recommendations will be shared with the proper national and international bodies/agencies for appropriate action.



Promotion Services

The program refers to the combination of approaches and strategies to inform and educate people and communities on human rights and thus to enable them to apply and practice such rights in their personal and public lives. The program targets specific sectors, such as the law enforcement, security and intelligence, the civil service arm of government bureaucracy, educational institutions in both formal and non-formal setting, the local government units, the mass media, people's organizations especially those of the vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized groups, professional groups, and other underprivileged sectors. The program seeks to institutionalize the integration of human rights in basic, secondary, and tertiary education, in military and police training formation, and in capacity-building courses of public officials and civil servants both at the national and local levels. It also includes advocacy campaigning and other forms of communications media—a task that interlaces with the promotion services.

TRAININGS, HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AND CELEBRATORY ACTIVITIES

- Human rights trainings/ seminars, education activities, information campaigns and celebratory events implemented - 1,512
- Total Participants - 110,587

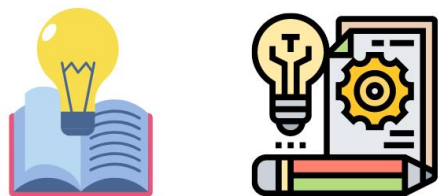


MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Press Release and Statements - 221
- Online News Pick-ups - 454
- Media Interviews/ Engagements and Data Requests - 308

HUMAN RIGHTS IEC MATERIALS DEVELOPED AND DISSEMINATED

- **Total IEC Materials Developed - 34**



SOCIAL MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS

- CHR Facebook Page Interactions - 5,251,287
- Facebook Followers - 388,764
- Twitter Followers - 8,820
- Tiktok Followers - 973



HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE



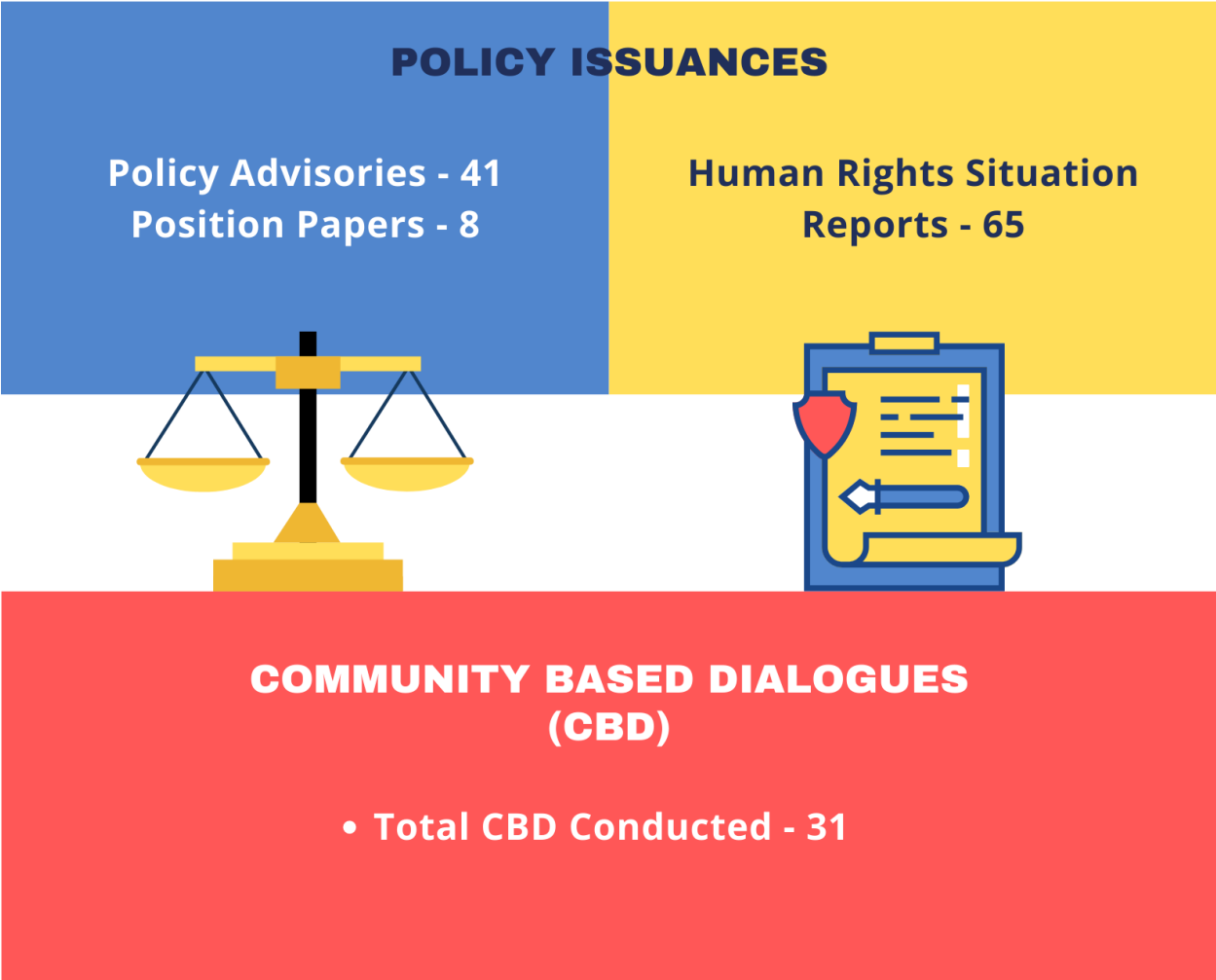
- **HRI Certificate Courses - 19**
- **Total Number of Enrolees - 10,264**





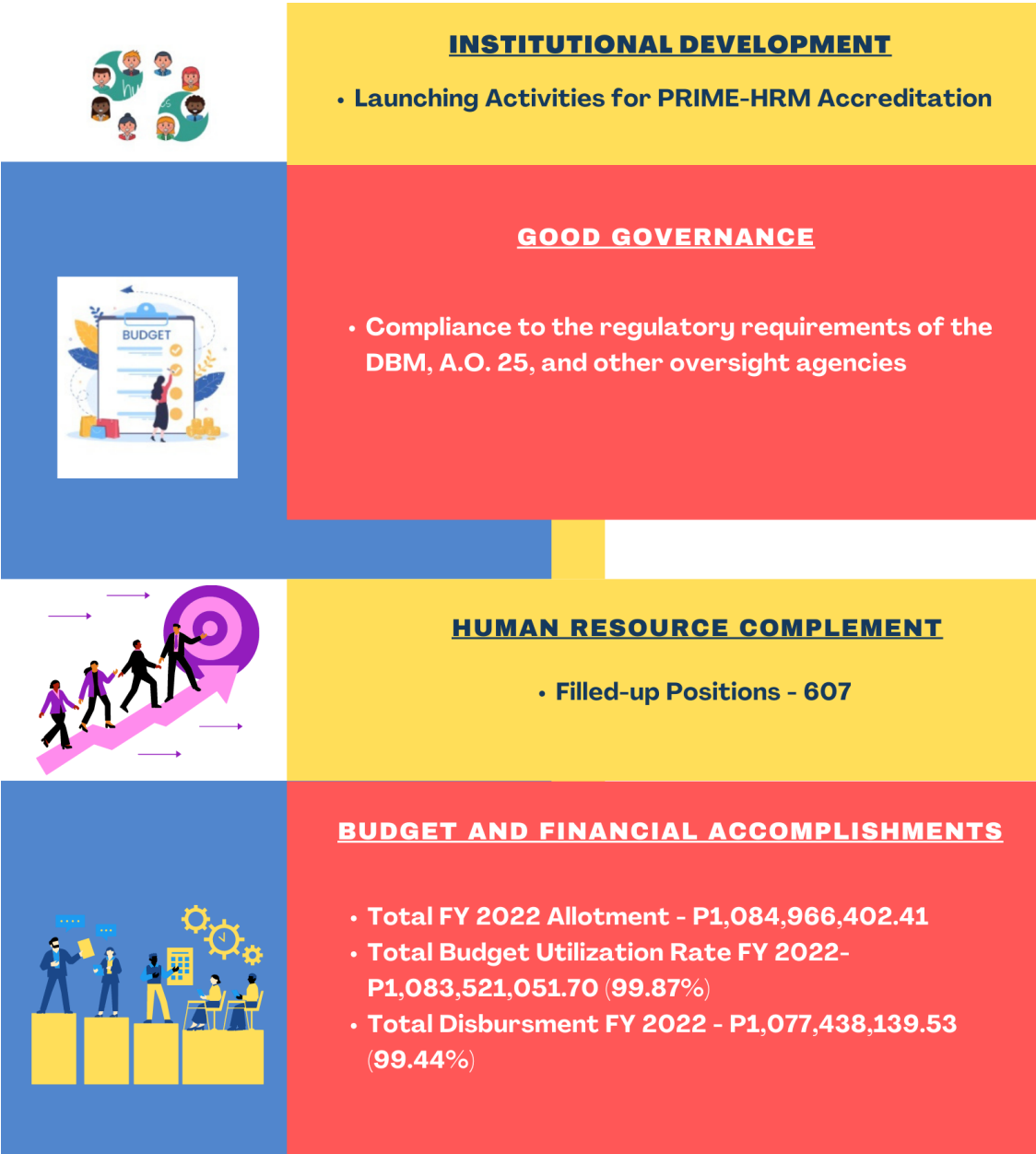
Policy Advisory Services

The Policy advisory services include the issuance of human rights advisories, position papers, statements and comments on existing and proposed legislations, local ordinances, and programs and practices of government bodies. This extends to the formulation of policy guidelines, implementing rules and regulations on new and/or special human rights laws, and such other program measures. The Commission conducts legal research and policy studies to translate international human rights treaties and standards into domestic laws. Under the program, the Commission prepares independent reports on the government’s implementation of the HR treaty provisions.



Accomplishments on Institutional Development, Management and Budget Use

The purpose for performing institutional development is to set up, step up and make better CHR’s organizational systems and capabilities. The same purpose ensures that the institution is able to realize and sustain the impacts and effectiveness of its programs and services over the years. Given that CHR is an NHRI, its efforts at institutional growth and development have to be for the long-term with focus on organizational ability for continuous and progressing responsiveness and ultimately for securing consistent relevance in its mandate, functions and integrity in its sphere of expertise. The CHR’s accomplishments on institutional development, programs and services management, and overall budget utilization, are the outcomes emanating from the institutional leadership—made up of supervisors and executives, and from the quality of the work rendered to enable the institution’s delivery of large-scale actions and interventions under the specific program services. The task of introducing and sustaining institutional reforms as part of the development agenda carefully considers the history of its strategic thrusts and actions, the policy and operational practices, the shifting size and competency of personnel, efforts to provide for capabilities and facilities including equipment, technology, infrastructure, and equitable budget allocation and financial viability, among other strategic measures.



As a rule, the long-term process of institutional development, management and fund sourcing, must be launched and proceed by means of thoroughly planned steps and thus involve the most appropriate projects, activities and target outcomes. It is incumbent upon the units in charge to diligently address, process, plan for, and fulfil the rationale for the institutional development actions undertaken hence entailing the task of overall, comprehensive as well as an intersecting method of management and supervision.

II. Introduction

The Commission on Human Rights publishes and shares its Accomplishment Report (AR) each year to impart all stakeholders with a review of its overall performance during the period. This current report is a rendition of such continuing effort. Listed and described here are the highlights of CHR’s work with reference to the core programs and services and institutional development and operations for 2022. It assembles into one consolidated account and rolls out what the institution has attained corresponding to the program key result areas being pursued within its human rights mandate, including human rights protection, preventing human rights violations, human rights promotion, human rights policy advisories, organizational development, and international collaboration and partnerships. The key projects undertaken and the resulting outputs are also contained and described in this document.

The CHR intends to obtain the widest possible audience to engage such as the general public whom to inform and instruct with this report. Equally, specific groups including high-level agencies are the intended readers and end-users i.e., the Philippine Congress, Department of Budget and Management, Commission on Audit, and other human rights stakeholders at home and offshore. The effort to cater to as many partners in the country and abroad seeks to facilitate vibrant local interagency dynamics and complementation as well as international cooperation in the course of performing each involved party’s counterpart tasks.

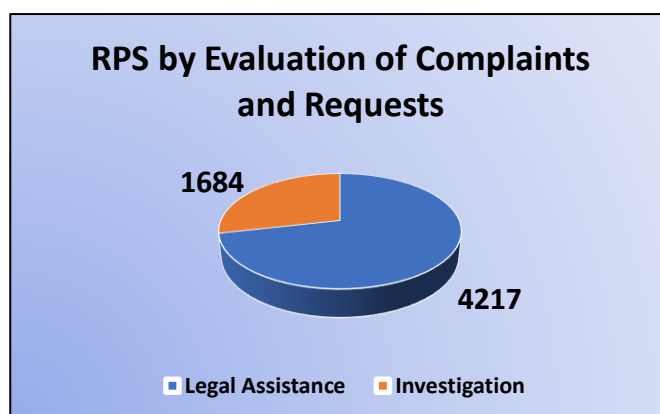
III. Accomplishments on Protection Program/Services

In 2022, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) continued to show purpose and resolve in actualizing its work as the country’s legitimate and sole NHRI. Its core programs and services as per usual were the main channels for making accessible steadfast support to all Filipino rights-holders and duty bearers in the Philippines and those outside the country. The protection services are the first layer of defense to safeguard the rights and entitlements of civilians and citizens under domestic laws and international instruments and standards. The CHR protection program functions to aid the State under the current governance to act proactively with respect to human rights. The objective of protection pursues defending the rights against infringement by accepting complaints and requests for protection services from affected parties. The protection services facilitate this along with the other related procedures. In essence, the protection service sees to it that the State does not disregard and defy the principles and standards. The protection system safeguards the rights and entitlements from being deprived nor breached by violators. In view of that, the CHR responded to 5,901 requests for protection services from various sectors during the period.

The protection service along with all the component programs, rely on reliable data governance to produce correct and authentic information. Enforcing quality data collection and use has the end view of integrating, unifying and making congruent the CHR’s monitoring, documentation and reporting systems.

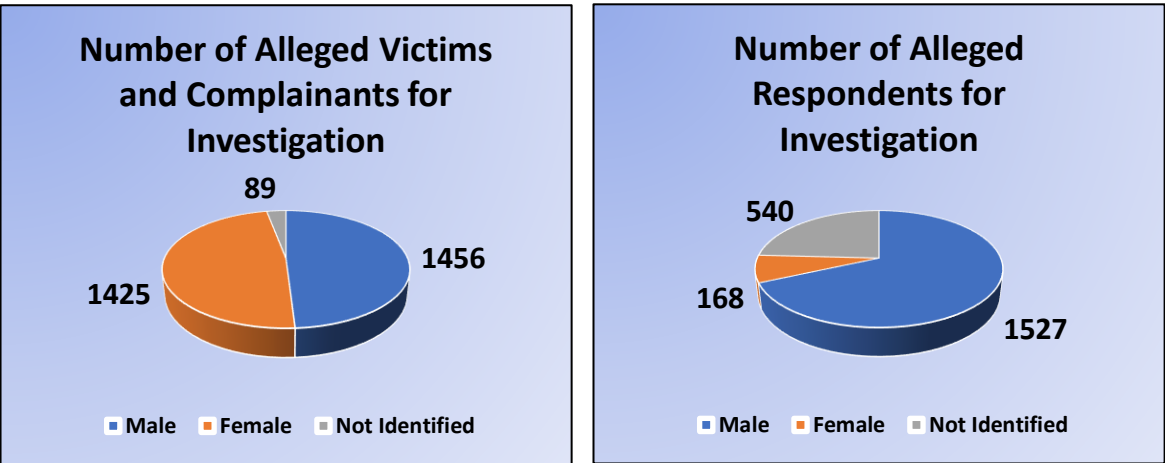
A. Request for Protection Services (RPS)

The same with those of the complementary services, the data for the protection outputs, were broken down into separate smaller components to indicate the specifics such as the volume of request received and provided for the period. The purpose of disaggregation is to show information in detail in terms of scope of service, the size of vulnerable groups catered to, their geographical distribution, and other variables.





- **Sex Disaggregation of Alleged Victims/ Complainants and Respondents for Investigation**



- **Gender-Related Complaints/Cases**

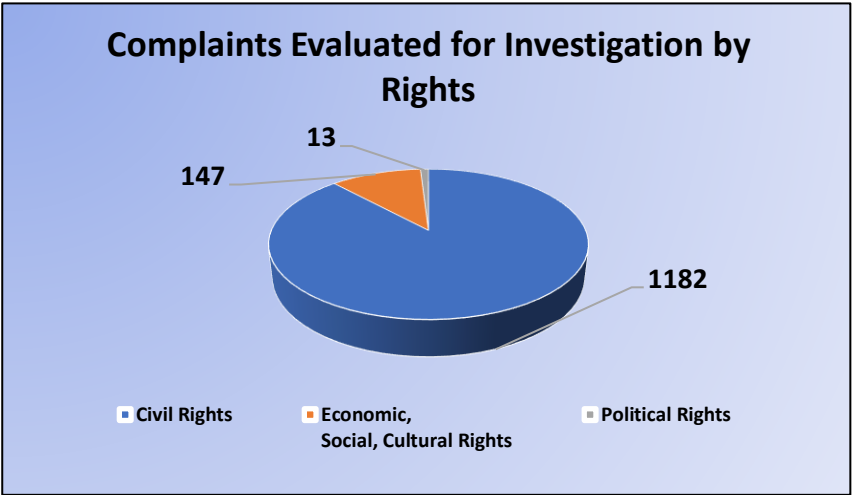
As Gender Ombud, the Commission is specifically tasked to establish guidelines and mechanisms that will facilitate access of women to legal remedies, and enhance protection and promotion of the rights of women, especially marginalized women. In 2022, there were 789 requests for assistance and/or cases filed related to gender. Of the 951 victims, seven (7) were male and 944 females.

- **Cases/Complaints Involving Children**

Protecting the children and the youth is considered a foremost concern as these groups are considered the most disadvantaged and usually the vulnerable sector. Securing their rights through protection deserves first attention and thus, addressing complaints involving them a priority service. This is not only to secure their best interests but also to make sure that government policies are founded on children and youth protection and that implementation would not bring about negative impacts on them. The total number of requests for protection services involving children was at 469. These include 568 victims, 141 of which were males and females were 401.

- **Complaints Evaluated for Investigation by Rights**

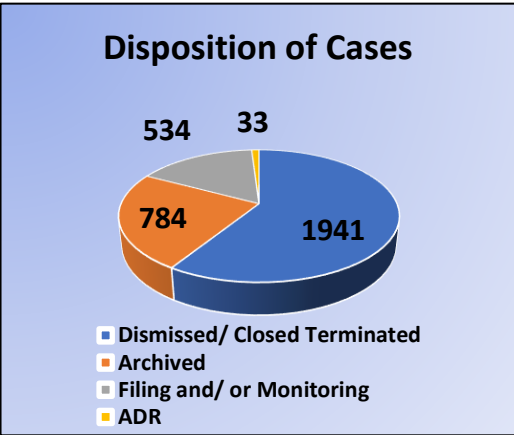
The task of investigating under the protection program involves gathering data from the clients and all other relevant sources of information that will determine the process. This consists of procedures geared at collecting and consolidating the optimum volume of correct information to build up the investigative process. The goal is achieving a validated and convincing body of information that supports the investigative method toward the proper resolution of the cases. The total number of complaints evaluated involving civil rights was at 1,182 while complaints evaluated involving economic, social and cultural rights was at 147 and complaints evaluated involving political rights was at 13.





• **Disposition of Cases**

The disposition of cases was based on the findings, recommendations, and pieces of evidence gathered throughout the investigation process. Cases are either disposed as closed and terminated, for archiving, or for filing and/or monitoring. The category “cases finally disposed” is adopted in 2022 to replace the formerly defined category “resolution of cases”— a mechanism that is supposed to record the outcomes and conclusion of the specific case investigation. There were 1,941 disposed cases which were dismissed/closed and terminated, 784 were archived, 534 were disposed for filing and/or monitoring, and 33 were disposed for alternative dispute resolution (ADR).



All CHR intervention that involved disposing in 2022 faithfully adhered to the Revised Omnibus Rules on Criminal Procedure (RORP).

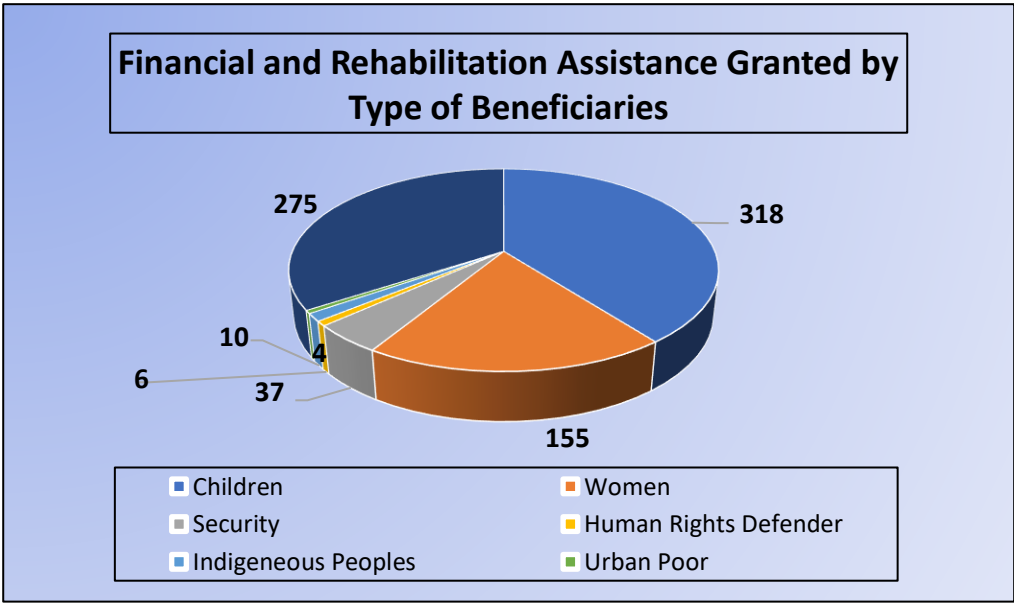
B. Financial and Rehabilitation Assistance

Compensation to victims was allocated in the form of financial assistance during the period. This is part of the institution’s mandated duty to provide humanitarian support. It also alleviated, in monetary terms, the hardships experienced by the victims of human rights violations and their families.

Besides representing humanitarian help, financial assistance is a means of recognizing the value of loss or damages incurred by perpetrators or violators. It is a form of symbolically affirming what government is accountable for with respect to upholding people’s rights while at the same time maintaining that by all means, active protection of rights is more preferred than compensation.

Financial assistance is a supplemental measure to a human rights violation or abuse. This presupposes the existence of a complaint for human rights violation or abuse.

Financial assistance granted for the period totaled Php 16,190,500. This amount was disbursed and distributed among 805 beneficiaries.



C. Tanggol Karapatan

This form of service emphasizes the importance of lawyers and the crucial tasks they perform such as counselling the clients and acting as their representatives in all the pertinent platforms of the judicial system. With the lawyers performing their roles, the legal involvement and mediation of CHR as an NHRI constitutes a major groundwork for all of its functions. The protection and defense of the rights of the people in society rest in the legal practitioners' hands. Furthermore, while availing legal assistance is crucial, it is equally prohibitive due to the high costs in many aspects of the procedures especially for the victims of human rights violations. This is primarily the reason Tanggol Karapatan is opening itself as an affordable and more practical alternative.



- **E –Lawyering**

Under the Tanggol Karapatan as a mechanism, the E-Lawyering (electronic lawyering or lawyers extending services online) offers a set up that incorporates the digital technology to reach out to complainants who are unable to come in person to the legal offices for one reason or another. The protection services introduced this form of legal aid as an alternative especially during the pandemic period. It proved helpful when the local government units required social distancing as part of the safety protocol and when further ensuing restrictions discouraged physical access to legal help. Through on-stream consultations, free legal assistance was obtained and aiding victims was saved from interruption. There were 1,090 total number of clients served through E-lawyering from January to December of the year.

D. Traditional Legal Assistance and/or Legal Counselling

Traditional legal assistance and/or counselling combine with other forms of assistance extended by the CHR to aid the victims of human rights abuses.



The legal assistance provided includes a set of services including informing, advising and representation in court. When informing and/or counselling the victims and their families, the legal specialists provided help by recommending opinion, offering technical as well as practical information, and at most, proffering themselves as CHR intermediary, to represent the prospective case in a court of law.

The traditional legal assistance supplied by the CHR is usually carried out in a specified set-up, i.e., face-to-face; in a physical environment (specifically in CHR offices); in the homes of the victims; or a determined place mutually agreed upon by the parties

concerned. Served with official legal and counselling assistance were 4,056 persons in which 3,301 or 81.4% were experiencing various thematic issues apart from the usual types of cases.

E. Legal Clinic Caravan

With the intention to bring help to the people wherever they are, the Legal Clinic Caravan (LCC) has been visiting local communities around the country and conducting on-the-ground consultations. The remotest and poor areas lacking in government agency services have been its initial destinations.

The concept of the LCC takes inspiration from the developmental legal aid model characterized by pro-bono services, and focuses on the poor and marginalized sectors. Through the LCC, sustaining developmental and legal assistance and counselling is practiced and cultivated. Measures that increase awareness of human rights, build capacities, make available opportunities for training on basic human rights, raise public knowledge on the roles, mandate, and services of CHR, and other relevant human rights laws and





standards, are undertaken. So far, the LCCs have extended free legal consultations, and brief lecture(s) on the nature and mandate of the CHR, among other more advance actions. New components will be introduced including the setting up of more enduring human rights desks in local parishes. There were 1,132 LCCs that were conducted and participated in by 1,138 partakers composed of 515 males, 601 females, and 22 “unspecified others”. Of the total assisted, 386 contained factors needing legal assistance. Client approval metrics showed that 77% were extremely satisfied; 22% very satisfied and 3% satisfied. There were no dissatisfaction scores so far.

F. Summary of Alleged Drug Related-EJK Incidents Taken Cognizance of by the CHR: July 01-2016- December 31, 2022

The massive wave of drug crimes and the targeting of alleged suspects, followed by human rights abuses meant to crackdown on illicit drug users in the country, became the focal point of government strategy under the last administration (2016-2022). Law enforcers were deployed in a nationwide campaign purportedly to solve the drug problem in the country. Under the said campaign, however, aggressive and even brutal law enforcement was employed to spot and subdue those allegedly involved in the illegal trade. Unfortunately, the crusade to eradicate the illegal drug business in the country targeted mostly the grassroots players and caught hardly any big-time dealers. The brutal campaign which exploited a de facto policy to go after drug criminals carried out tactics ranging from “house-to-house surveys on drug use, compulsory drug tests, and the compilation of names in drug watch lists.” In the long run, the community residents—most, if not all of whom, were the poor and the disadvantaged, became the hapless victims. There was a striking and sad contrariness on the fact that while the drug war was going on, local and international experts were criticizing the government’s approach and emphasizing there is still no evidence-based study supporting the war on drugs method of management as valid and effective for the long-term. The numbers presented here include carry-over cases documented from the last administration’s war on drug agenda.

Summary of Alleged Drug Related-EJK Cases	
Number of Cases	3,961
Number of Victims	4,600
Male	4,478
Female	122

G. EJK, Torture, and Enforced Disappearances

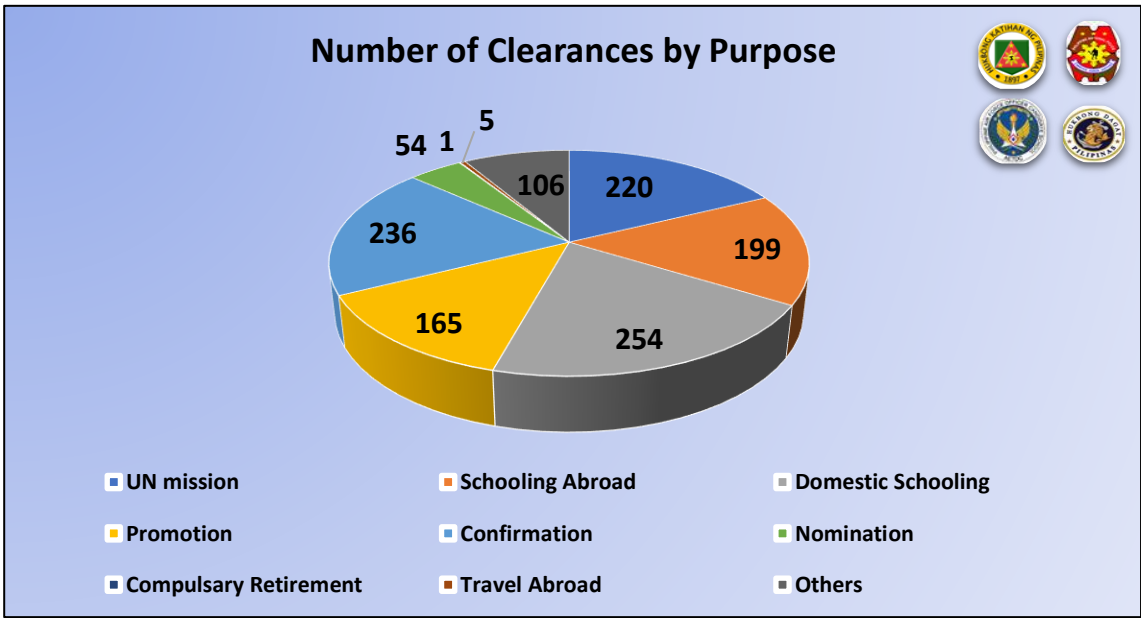
The last year in office of the past dispensation saw a time when there was no indication of recovery for human rights in the country even as the incoming administration had yet to guarantee programmatic actions and policy-based commitments for rights and freedoms. During the changeover in political leadership, it still remained to be seen whether the human rights terrain will get better as would be indicated solely by a downtrend in numbers and patterns in relation to cases specifically EJK, torture and enforced disappearance. It remains widely observed in 2022 that as the scenarios in the country for human rights continue to unfold, it will also continue to entail vigilant and dynamic monitoring. It is crucial without exception that the protective agencies led by CHR to constantly act to demand State support and adherence to human rights laws and standards especially in the delay if not absence of holistic, comprehensive and permanent plan of actions to resolve and stop continuing infringements. While it is in fact far-fetched that any government can thoroughly eliminate abuses and preserve a violations-free society, it is still within reasonable expectations that government and its agencies will allocate capacities and similar resources, including exerting enough political will, to come up with systems that protect and promote human rights. The figures on EJK do not reflect the total number of alleged EJKDR cases which were being investigated by CHR in 2022. These figures only pertain to cases culled from the CHR central database (ICMS) and may not yet include those directly received; taken cognizance; and/or has yet to be inputted by CHR Regional Offices in the said database

Case Type	Number of Cases	Number of Victims
Extra Judicial Killing	85	91
Enforced Disappearance	21	71
Torture	35	42



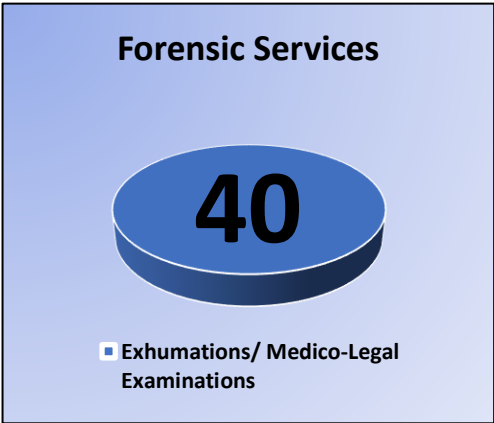
H. Issuance of Clearances and Certifications

The CHR issues clearances and certificates as part of helping government agencies comply to, employ, and maintain the optimum possible standards and ethics in performing their administrative tasks. This includes hiring personnel and satisfying other purposes such as facilitating procedures for participation to international missions, schooling, promotion, confirmation, nomination, optional retirement, and compulsory retirement, but more so, to determine their human rights accountability. The issuance of CHR clearance and certifications accommodates the requirements of specific sectors such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Army (PA), Philippine Navy (PN), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and other requesting parties particularly those intending to join government offices in providing public service. The other rationale for issuing the clearance and certificate is to determine the participant or the client’s personal and professional data and records. This verifies whether they have no record of human rights violations, with record of human rights violations, or with pending resolution of human rights violations. The ultimate purpose is to reduce the risk and costs of signing up unreliable personnel with substandard merits in the crucial posts and assignments. In sum, the clearing process aims to determine eligibility or non-eligibility for government service. The Internal Legal Services Division (ILSD) of the CHR primarily performs the task of issuing clearances and certificates. Issued clearances counted 1,221 for the year released to mostly the Philippine National Police (PNP) with 321, Philippine Army (PA) with 272, Philippine Navy (PN) with 168, Philippine Air Force (PAF)/Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP) with 196, and an unspecified group of applicants/recipients numbering 133. Clearances were issued for the purposes of UN mission (220), schooling abroad (199), domestic schooling (254), promotion (165), confirmation (236), nomination (54), compulsory retirement (1), travel abroad (5), and unspecified others (106). In all, 1,240 were released.



I. Forensic Services Rendered

Providing forensic support through the employment of quality forensic is a crucial feature of the entire program of services whose goal is to produce objective findings towards the credible resolution of human rights cases. CHR’s collaboration with forensic scientists aids the entire CHR investigative system in conducting unbiased and competent enquiry into the cases presented for the Commission’s intervention. It is necessary that the Commission’s forensic work entail availing of the expertise of its own specialists while at the same time partnering with specialists from relevant agencies of government (such as the law enforcement agencies and the NGOs) to corroborate and solidify findings. Particularly when faced with medical/clinical cases involving legal significance, the task depends



on and concerns the opinion and/or participation of practitioners equipped with medico-legal proficiency. The conduct of the forensic examinations assimilates the established principles of rights-based investigation, rights-based oversight evaluation and outcomes appraisal. There were 40 exhumations/medico-legal examinations service performed by the Forensic Division personnel.

J. Quick-Response Operation

The CHR provides prompt investigation of cases of human rights violations and abuses based on complaints of clients or as an official act taken without formal request from another party. This service contributes to the resolution of violations of human rights, as well as the provision of effective remedies to victims. A total of 193 QRO were conducted by the CHR.

IV. Accomplishments on Prevention Program/Services



The prevention component reinforces the protection services of the CHR. The former—prevention service, joins the core programs, and together with them serve as one efficient interlinked mechanism for the CHR to perform its many roles as NHRI. In line with international resolutions and all ongoing human rights cooperation recognizing pre-emptive, thus, preventive actions on human rights abuses and damages as the best deterrence against commission, the CHR strategized, adopted and incorporated in its service programs the appropriate mechanisms and measures of prevention.

Promptly averting all forms of violations in accordance with their mandate-based duties operates ahead and must go before all efforts to uphold human rights. In its program of services to prevent human rights violations, the CHR exercises the function of monitoring, conducting jail visitations, and producing reports. The basis for this is not only to gather information and determine current situations; it is also meant to emphasize that evidence-based accountability and other efforts facilitating justice are a key factor to prevent further violations of human rights.

A. Places of Deprivation of Liberty (POD) Visitation Program

The Places of Deprivation of Liberty (POD) Visitation Program involves the conduct of unannounced visits by a CHR Visiting Team to gather information on the actual conditions of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) and POD. This is undertaken by means of interviews of facility personnel and PDL, ocular inspections, and records reviews, among others. The data and reports generated are analyzed to come up with a time-lined plan: immediate, mid-term, or long-term measures to respond to the human rights issues and concerns of PDL. These measures should guarantee that the State respects, protects, and fulfills the rights of all PDL in the Philippines and are resulting in PDL enjoying their human rights. The POD Visitation Program also includes the provision of legal counselling and advice and other forms of assistance to PDL as response to their requests.

Places of Deprivation of Liberty (POD) Visitation Program	
Total Number of Visits to Places of Deprivation of Liberty	982
Number of Mental Health Facilities visited	10

Western Visayas
May 9, 2022

2022 Elections

Ang CHR Office VI, sa adlaw sang 2022 National and Local Elections nagpatigayon sang monitoring activity sa mga jails and detention facilities sa mga nasari-sari nga lugar sa rehiyon para mapasiguro nga ang kinamatarang sa pagpili kag pagpartisipar sa eleksyon sang mga Persons Deprived of Liberty, gina-rekognisa, ginaproteheran kag ginarespeto.



Isulan District Jail, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
September 14, 2022

Kinuhanan ng salaysay ng CHR-Region XII noong ika-14 ng Setyembre, 2022 ang mga PDL na kasalakuyang nakapit sa Isulan District Jail sa bayan ng Isulan, Sultan Kudarat. Ito ay upang matbigyan ng legal na tulong ang naturang mga nakapit hinggil sa mga kasong kanilang kinakahirap. Bahagi ng mandato ng Komisyon ang pagbibigay ng legal assistance lalo na sa mga PDL.



- **Number of PDL Assisted**

The central and regional offices have recorded a total of 7,944 persons deprived of liberty (PDL) who were assisted in various forms during the year. There were 6,831 males and 1,113 females. Of the 7,944 assisted, 69 were LGBTQ, 416 were children in conflict situations (CICL), 251 were elderly, and 46 were persons with disabilities.

- **Mental Health Facilities Visited**

Persons deprived of liberty whose detention is caused by human rights violation are seen and visited as well, more so, when they experience mental health issues and emergencies, and are inevitably confined in medical facilities. The purpose of the visit always considers ensuring that the PDL’s are referred to social workers and/or psychiatric specialists to provide therapy, rehabilitation, crisis intervention, and other related help.

Mental Health Facilities Visited	
Baguio General Hospital (BGH) & Medical Center Psychiatry Department - Baguio	
Bridges of Hope Rehabilitation Center	
Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVCMC) Psychiatric Facility, Tuguegarao City	
Mariveles Mental and Wellness and General Hospital – Bataan	
DOH-Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center	
Don Susano Mental Hospital, Pili, Cam Sur	
Southern Philippines Medical Center Institute of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine	
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) Psychiatric and Psychological Services Ward	
ZC Medical Center, Mental Health Facility	

B. Number of Persons Affected with Mental Health Issues Served

The aid-users or aid-receivers reached out to, and who then benefited from CHR’s array of services, included clients needing either specific help or a set or series of interventions. The CHR had anticipated in advance the necessity for several services to merge and complement each other so that the outcomes and impacts among those being helped would be generally complete and holistic. The principle that the components of legal issues are inherently interrelated and that to treat them separately and partially impedes sustainable solutions, is always observed. In this sense, the CHR designed and extended a number of services to form an integrated system of help through legal advice, counselling, psycho-social services, case follow up/monitoring, forming linkages with family members and referral mechanisms with concerned government organizations, along with service-oriented practitioners such as the civil society organizations. There were 118 males and 65 females who received the services. Seven of the females were minors.

C. Number and Types of Visits to Places of Deprivation of Liberty (POD)

Jail visits are primarily the mode used to obtain information as to the general conditions of the persons deprived of liberty. Further methods of information have been to seek the help of families or relatives, to inspect their environment, to ensure their physical and mental wellbeing in detention, and to prevent a status of exclusion from community while they are still being kept in confined places. The other practices designed to keep them in contact with helpers when physical visits are temporarily not feasible include online meetings, phone calls/video chats, and written communication. There were 818 physical visits, 97 online, 25 phone calls, 42 written communications, totaling 982 across the 16 regions.

V. Accomplishments on Promotion Program/ Services

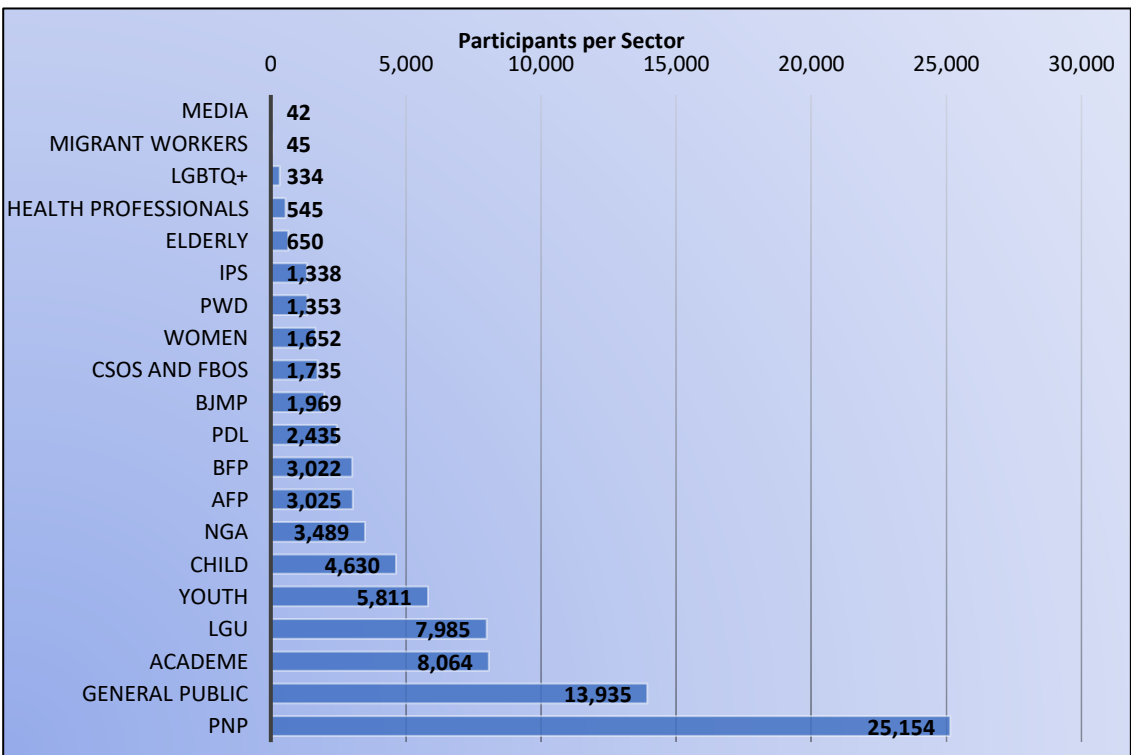
The mandate for human rights education is explicit: “You have a human right to know your rights.” The Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) exhorts “every individual and every organ of society” to “strive by teaching and education, to promote respect for these rights and freedoms.” Article 30 of the UDHR declares that one goal of education should be “the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.” According to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a government “may not stand in the way of people’s learning about [their rights].”



Human rights are as highly inspirational as they are practical. They embody the hopes and ideals of most human beings while also empowering people to achieve them and their benefits. The function of human rights education is to effectuate and make a part of human experience the principles and actual benefits of exercising all the rights and entitlements in being a part of the human race. It sets standards but also produces change. Effective human rights education can: produce changes in values and attitude; produce changes in behaviour; produce empowerment for social justice; develop attitudes of solidarity across issues, communities, and nations; develop knowledge and analytical skills; and encourage participatory education.

A. Human Rights Trainings, Education Activities, Information Campaign and Celebratory Activities and Number of Participants

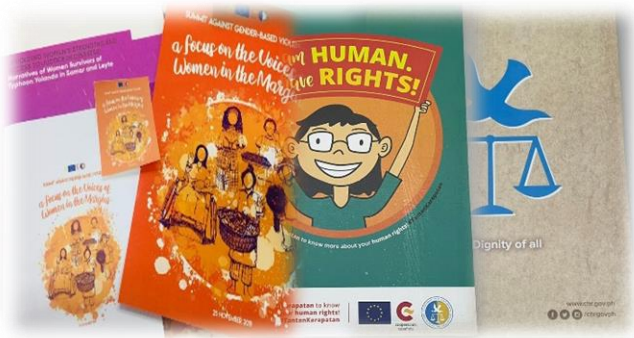
Training, education, information campaign, and celebratory activities are strategies and approaches employed to help target sectors including individuals, organizations, communities, and the public at large, to have active roles and to exercise them in learning, acquiring skills, protecting, and sustaining their human rights. They foster knowledge dissemination, open discussion and dialogue, capacity-building and in the long run, cultivate relevant and durable partnerships.



For these purposes 1,512 training seminars, education activities, information campaigns including celebratory activities were conducted wherein 110,587 participants attended.

- Human Rights IEC Materials Developed and Disseminated**

In keeping with the rationale to conduct human rights trainings, education activities, information campaign and celebratory activities, thirty-four (34) IEC materials were developed by the central office. Of this number, 16 were in the form of educational and training materials and 18 were disseminated through information campaigns and celebratory activities.



• Human Rights Institute

Human Rights Institute Facebook Page



The Human Rights Institute (HRI) of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has continuously established its presence as a premier institution to offer human rights education in the public and private arenas, and among the other relevant sectors. It is a product of the long-term objective of the Commission to foster and sustain human rights culture in the Philippines.

The HRI platform began this year and it was able to successfully develop different human rights education efforts. The second semester of the year was full of

sustained activities and brought forth receptive interest from the general public. The HRI was able to conduct 19 certificate courses – both general and specialized courses – with a total number of 10, 264 enrollees, 5,345-course completers, and a high 91.71% passing rate. These numbers translate to the growing relevance of HRI and the success of the educational programs it has been offering to all individuals. It also garnered hundreds of successful testimonies that mark HRI's credibility in offering human rights education programs.

The Human Rights Institute (HRI) Facebook Page offers online courses and features different online activities. This includes a Webinar titled “YSpeak” – a thematic seminar conducted on the internet every month together with “You My Rights TV.”



The said live streaming engagements were cross-posted by the official CHR Facebook account to other social media sites and hence provided more avenues for the promotion of human rights education activities.



The CHR has embarked on providing online learning courses as an added option to face-to-face or in-person mode of learning. Through a certificate program, the institution has successfully helped educate various sectors as target participants by removing the impediments to free, fair and readily available sources of knowledge and skills.

As part of this objective, the Human Rights Institute of the Human Rights Education and Promotion Office of the CHR launched in 2022 a selected career skill course that will provide opportunity to complete a Certificate Course. The special course on the Right to Health was offered and opened for registration. The duration for this was from December 19 to 23, 2022. This is a synchronous learning venture where a number of learners participate in the same class with the same instructors. Enrollees can access and complete lectures, readings, homework, and learning materials within the given timeframe.

B. Center for Human Rights Education (CHRE)

The Center for Human Rights Education (CHRE) is one of the flagship programs of the Commission on Human Rights that aims to strengthen its mandate by developing a continuing program on research, education, and information and by this means enhance awareness and appreciation for the primacy of human rights in the academe. The CHR encourages all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and private higher education institutions (HEIs) to establish a CHRE to help accelerate the formation of a culture of human rights in the academic sector and in the local communities they serve. The CHREs are a response to the various local and international mandates, emphasizing the promotion and protection of human rights through education. In particular, CHREs are established to address the aim of the 1996 agreement between CHR with the CHED; with the DEC (now DepEd), and with the Amnesty International Philippines, which is to strengthen human rights education and conducting human rights and training programs (as per CHED memorandum Order No.31 s. 1996 in all HEIs).



C. Human Rights Action Center (HRAC)

The Human Rights Action Center (HRAC) is a unit that acts on human rights matters, including human rights promotion and complaints of human rights violations that are filed by any affected party at the grassroots level. It is a mechanism ensuring the local government units' (LGUs) performance of their mandated duties to respect, protect and fulfil human rights within their jurisdiction. In line with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) enjoining all local government units to pass or adopt a Barangay Resolution establishing the BHRAC, the Human Rights Committees (HRCs) were established on all levels of the local Sanggunian (Council) in accordance with a Joint Memorandum between the DILG and the CHR in 2014.

The following are the functions of these committees: (a) propose to and work for the passage of legislations by the Sanggunian that will protect, promote and fulfil human rights, including the establishment of the local HRACs; (b) ensure the inclusion of human rights programs, projects and activities in the annual budget appropriation of the LGUs; (c) coordinate with the CHR and DILG Central or Regional/Field Offices on human rights legislations; and (d) undergo capacity building on human rights and rights-based legislation.

The HRACs are created at all layers/units of local governance, namely, at the provincial, city, municipal, and barangay levels stationed at the Office of the Legal Officer. In municipalities where there are no local legal officers, they are stationed at the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO). The long-term prospect is to build and establish HRACs at all units and levels of governance in the country where a Provincial Human Rights Action Center (PHRAC), City Human Rights Action Center (CHRAC), Municipal Human Rights Action Center (MHRAC), and Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC), will serve their constituents. Presently, there are two (2) provincial HRACs, four (4) city-based, and four (4) municipality-based. There are 154 HRACs at the barangay level.

D. Advocacies on Thematic Sectors

The importance of advocacy work has always been embedded in the programs and services to promote not only human rights but other issues and causes that have the most relevant effects and impacts among people across sectors in the country. Propagating knowledge or information towards awareness-raising and promoting common and collective responses are the intended outcomes. It is envisioned that over time, sustained efforts will bring about enduring protection of the people and their aspirations through supportive laws and policies. The themes arch over topics on women, children, climate justice, internally displaced persons (IDPs), older persons, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and others more who are considered underprivileged and neglected, when such particular sectors come at issue or under discussion.

1. Advocacy on Women

- **Women's Month**



The Women's Month is a month-long celebration of women's achievements as well as recognition of their struggles and aspirations for equality and independence. The CHR's celebration of Women's Month for the year was comprised of several activities. The Purple Action Day for 2022 was held on the first day of March in partnership with Sarilaya, an eco-feminist organization whose program focal points include the wellbeing of women in their communities and the CHR-NCR office. In view of the end of the term of the 5th Commission and the 2022 elections, the Purple Action Day's theme for the year revolved on reflections on the work accomplished by the 5th Commission, and the remaining persisting gaps and challenges that will be carried over for the next year. It also captured the intention to push for women's agenda in the 2022 presidential election. A total of 160 participants on-site attended the said event. Following the Purple Action Day, two webinars were conducted that focused on strengthening men's

participation in addressing gender-based violence (GBV). Relevant to the "He for She" campaign conducted on March 8, 2022, followed by another one on March 15, 2022, CHR employees

targeting the male staff members were provided an orientation seminar. The orientation cum capacity building carried the following objectives: (a) orient CHR staff particularly the males on GBV and how this affects their families and communities; (b) make participants realize the active role of men in addressing GBV; and (c) mobilize CHR staff to take their own personal day-to-day initiatives in preventing violence against women (VAW).

The month-long celebration also included on March 28 via a Zoom meeting the "Kwentuhang GBV (Storytelling on Gender-Based Violence): Sharing of Monitoring Results and Strengthening of GBV Responses". The summary of the GBV mapping project conducted in different regions from 2020-2021 were shared to the participants.

- **International Women's Day**

To celebrate the International Women's Day and in observance of the Women's month, the Commission endeavored to strengthen men's participation among its partners and communities in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. To do this, a platform was created where men will be provided with an orientation on issues of Violence Against Women (VAW) and how they can help to address and curb the alarming trend.



The CHR-Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center (GEWHRC) conducted a "He For She" Campaign webinar on March 8 via Zoom. The webinar aimed at highlighting the need to collectively work towards gender equality and to collaborate on doable solutions. The participants included male employees from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the National Confederation of Transport Union Workers-Mandaluyong Transport Service Cooperative—all of whom are also partners of the CHR in its #SafeSpacesNow and #RighttheRide Campaigns.

The gender equality-centered webinar was also taken as an opportunity to sharpen the involvement of the transportation union and public utility jeepney drivers' sector as partners for Safe Spaces in cooperation with the National Confederation of Transport Workers Union and its members. The joint venture has been part of the continuing campaign on "Right the Ride" for the full and effective implementation of the Safe Spaces Act that the Commission is currently conducting. The activity was attended by 120 Zoom participants.

- **Women with Disabilities Day**



The CGEWHR conducted a digital contest with the theme "Women Medical Front-liners: Pagpugay Sa Mga Bayani Sa Panahon Ng Pandemya (Commending the Women-Heroes in the Time of Pandemic)". The theme highlighted the role of women medical front-liners during the pandemic.

The CHR acknowledged that women were at the forefront of the battle against the pandemic; they made up almost 70% of the healthcare workforce. At the onset of this global health problem, they had to respond to the enormous need of the health care system while being more prone and thus in no less physical and mental risks themselves. In addition to responding to alleviate the crisis of the pandemic, women medical frontline workers, in hospitals, in clinics, and in the communities were also burdened with care-giving work at home, even as they performed other competing responsibilities. As the country gradually transitioned to recovery, it was only appropriate that fitting recognition be given the pandemic's women heroes.

The contest was launched on April 21, during the hosting of the first focus group discussion with women medical front-liners - Luzon Cluster. The contest ran from April 21 until May 28. The winners were announced on May 28, 2022 in time for the celebration of the International Day of Action for Women's Health. There were 14 entries submitted and judged.

- **Campaign to End VAW: Safe Spaces Caravan**

The CGEWHR and CHR-NCR in partnership with the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), and in coordination with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), together with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), conducted a Safe Spaces and Legal Caravan at the PITX terminal on November 25, 2022 as kick-off activity in the observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW. During the caravan, more than a hundred drivers and public commuters participated and were given posters and stickers containing information about the 11313 the Safe or Spaces ACT "Bawal Bastos Law" (No to Obscenities), —a law prohibiting obscenities such as sexual harassment against women particularly in public places. Another round of Safe Spaces Caravan was conducted at the Katipunan Public Terminal on December 10, 2022. Jeepney drivers and commuters using the Katipunan Terminal were also provided with stickers and flyers containing basic information about the "Bawal Bastos Law". The salient features of the Law were also discussed in brief broad strokes with the drivers and commuters during the caravan.



- **Gender and Climate Change: Kuwentong Odette (Women's Stories on Typhoon Odette)**

In observance of Earth Day 2022, the CGEWHR in partnership with Women in Emergency Network conducted a webinar on April 22, 2022 entitled "Gender and Climate Change: Kuwentong Odette". The discussions revolved on the impact of Typhoon Odette on gender equality, and on women's empowerment initiatives. The webinar also provided a space to discuss and elaborate on gender and climate change - how women are more excessively impacted by the crisis but remain as key actors and movers. It also provided a space to listen to stories and narratives of women from the past two typhoons - Typhoon Odette and Agaton - on the impacts of destructive weather phenomena and of women's collective action and community protection response. After the presentations, three women who were community residents were invited to share their stories on the "Impact of Odette on Women and Women's Response and Leadership. A total of 65 participants attended the webinar.

- **Pride Month**



In solidarity with the LGBTQI (an inclusive term for lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, the intersex and the community they belong), and to show that the Commission remains a committed partner of the LGBTQI society, the Commission joined and conducted the activities for the occasion. The Pride Expo and Pride March on June 25 was held at the Quezon City Memorial Circle. The theme for 2022 was

Alab for Love (Glow for Love), One Pride."

The CHR set up booths at the Pride Expo to showcase its different advocacy and campaign materials for the implementation of the safe spaces legislation and the passage of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGIE) Equality Bill that seeks to prevent gender-based discrimination. Further presented in the expo were the: (a) "Safe Spaces Now: Right the Ride Campaign"; (b) "Ang CHR Ay Para Salahat" (CHR is for All); (c) "Ang CHR ay para sa LGBTQI" (CHR is for LGBTQI); (d) "TanTanKarapatan—a title based on the characters of Kara and Tantan in an IEC video production that is accessible through online channels such as in Facebook and Youtube; and the (e) "No More Missing Out Campaign," were also presented in the Expo.





The CHR staff also joined the “Pride March” which was held around the Elliptical Road, in Quezon City wherein a total of 30 CHR staff participated. The SOGIESC Orientation and Film showing of 'Budjang' were also included as part of the Pride Celebration. A SOGIESC Orientation was conducted for CHR employees, utility workers and students on June 27 at the CHR premises.

After the orientation, a film featuring Rhadem Musawah’s ‘Budjang’ was shown. The film shows the struggles of being a young gay Muslim as the main character in one of the poorest barangays in Zamboanga City. It aims to inform and persuade society of the intertwined issues being experienced by LGBTQI members. It also instructed how the LGU of Zamboanga successfully passed an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance seeking to protect and empower LGBTQ members from discrimination.

A total of 60 participants from CHR and students from City of Malabon University attended the said activity.

• World Day Opposing Trafficking of Persons

In observance of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the CGEWHR in partnership with the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific (CATW-AP), Children’s Legal Bureau (CLB) and the Talikala Inc., conducted the “Kwentuhan: Continuing Conversations on Preventing Trafficking of Women and Girls” on July 29, 2022 via Zoom. Several resource persons probed into the subject matter. Atty. Jaye Dela Cruz Bekema, the Chief Legislative Officer of the Office of Senator Risa Hontiveros discussed the updates on the amendments of the "Anti-Trafficking Law or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022". Ms. Jean Enriquez, Executive Director of CATW-AP, discussed trafficking as human rights violations under the old law. Atty. Joan Dymphna G. Sanie, Executive Director of CLB and Jeanette Laurel-Ampog, Executive Director of Talikala, Inc., both discussed the continuing issues and the corresponding recommendations based on the situation reports on trafficking in their areas. A total of fifty-eight (58) participants from the CHR central and regional offices and other stakeholders engaged in the activity. The Kwentuhan para sa (Storytelling for the) International Day Against Trafficking (IDAT) This was held on December 12, 2022 via Zoom in observance of the International Day Against Trafficking (IDAT). The kwentuhan served as a learning platform on the problems arising from the phenomenon of trafficking in women and girls, as it also updated on the current situation. The kwentuhan also amplified calls of women survivors of trafficking for preventive and support actions from the authorities.



The guest speakers for the kwentuhan were Ms. Jean Enriquez (CATWAP), Ms. Dianne Opimo (Talikala, Inc.), Atty. Joan Dymphna Sanie (CLB), Atty. Tywla Rubin (CHR-GEWHRC), Ms. Bing Diaz (CHR-CRC), Myles Sanchez (EWSC), Lory Pabunag (LawigBubay) and Ann Poyaoan. The kwentuhan was attended by 6 male and 27 female participants from the CHR central and regional offices and partner organizations.

2. Advocacy on Children

The advocacy on children is a foremost campaign seeking to defend and protect children’s rights, needs and interests. This has something to do with the fact that they are the most at-risk for harm, deprivation and denial, sadly, even by those expected to play the role of provider and protector in society. Consistent with the support for children, the work requires making the surrounding social environment recognize and appreciate that children have special needs and that meeting their issues with proper remedies is imperative.



- **Advocacy and Legislative Agenda Lobbying**

The first quarter of the year witnessed the passage into laws of the various bills collaborated on, drafted and finalized with the help of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as member of the technical working group (TWG). The proposed measures were the following:

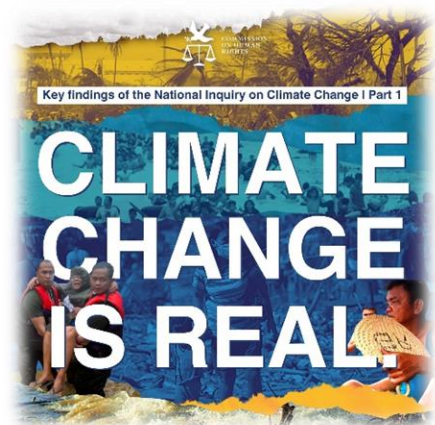
(a) R.A. 11767—An Act Promoting The Rights Of And Providing Greater Protections To Deserted Or Abandoned Children With Unknown Parents, Amending For This Purpose Articles 276 And 277 Of The Revised Penal Code And Special Laws, Recognizing Their Status As Natural-Born Citizens Of The Philippines, Providing Penalties Against Acts Inimical To Their Welfare, And For Other Purposes; (b) R.A.11596—An Act Prohibiting The Practice Of Child Marriage And Imposing Penalties For Violations Thereof; (c) R.A. 11650—An Act Instituting A Policy Of Inclusion And Services For Learners With Disabilities In Support Of Inclusive Education, Establishing Inclusive Learning Resource Centers Of Learners With Disabilities In All School Districts, Municipalities And Cities, Providing For Standards, Appropriating Funds Thereto, And For Other Purposes; and (d) R.A. 11648—An Act Promoting For Stronger Protection Against Rape And Sexual Exploitation And Abuse, Increasing The Age For Determining The Commission Of Statutory Rape, Amending For The Purpose Act No. 3815, As Amended, Otherwise Known As "The Revised Penal Code," Republic Act No. 8353, Also Known As "The Anti-Rape Law Of 1997," And Republic Act No. 7610, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The "Special Protection Of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation And Discrimination Act".

- **CHR-UNICEF Child Participation Project: A Consultation on Child Participation in UNCRC Reporting, Monitoring and Implementation**

The CRC together with the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development, Inc. (PLCPD) and with funding support from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) conducted eleven (11) consultations from December 2021 to April 2022. A total of 222 children from the least consulted sub-sectors such as the Children of Person Deprived of Liberty (CPDL), Children with Disabilities (CWD), Children from Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA), Children Deprived of Liberty (CDL), children without access to technology, the Moro children and internally displaced children, indigenous children, and the working children (child labourers). For CHR, the Regional Offices (RO) V (Legazpi and Naga), RO VIII (Tacloban City), RO IX (Zamboanga City) and RO CAR (Pudtol, Apayao), were the co-implementers of the consultations. The Results of the series of consultations will be used as the motivating opinions and arguments for CRC's policy recommendations, reports and advisories. Furthermore, five (5) parallel consultations with parents and guardians were also conducted in Tacloban City, Naga City, Legazpi City and Zamboanga City with total number of eighty-six (86) participants.

3. Advocacy on Climate Justice

Climate change has been affecting countries worldwide since the last several years and experts predict that the Philippines will be one of the hardest-hit when its impacts begin to spike in regions across the globe before long. In this regard, the CHR has put more stress on climate change and environmental protection among the issues that will be at the top of its list of most urgent advocacies. The CHR Report on the National Inquiry on Climate Change (NICC) released on May 6, 2022, contained findings and recommendations, including how the government and the country's private big business sectors should lead the Philippine's cause to actively address the worsening problem of climate change and the environmental disasters accompanying it. Citing that "the findings and recommendations are informed by science and governance experts," the CHR urged all parties and stakeholders specifically the political and executive branches, as well as the judicial agencies, to respond resolutely and quickly, to avert disastrous consequences. The report was released at the CHR's central office in Diliman, Quezon City. Former CHR Commissioner Roberto Eugenio Cadiz as focal commissioner handling the NICC, released the report. Cadiz stressed that climate change is a human rights issue and the government has "the duty to address the issue."

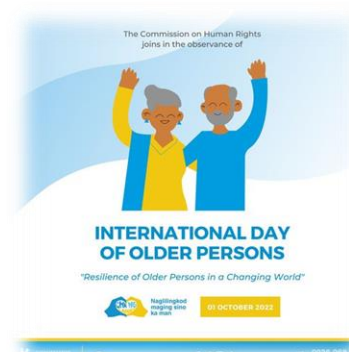


- **National Human Rights Institutions Blended Learning Workshop**

The workshop, titled “Engaging with Inter-Governmental Mechanisms (IGM) on the Right to a Healthy Environment and Climate Change,” was a three-day workshop that served as an opportunity for NHRI participants to consolidate and build on what they had learned during the online course. Following the introductory dialogue with their IGM representatives, NHRI participants were encouraged to identify opportunities and approaches to strengthen reciprocal engagements on the right to a healthy environment and protection against climate change. NHRI participants applied their knowledge and understanding with a view to submitting to workshop their proposals for the IGM Project’s small grants program. It was also an opportunity for the participants to connect and network with one another.

4. Advocacy on Older Persons

The CHR has been actively promoting the culture of respect for older people with the aim to show consideration for their dignity and worth, wellbeing, and their need for an equal and good-quality life. This advocacy attaches itself to the principle of inclusivity and non-discrimination and signifies a strong show of support for a kind of human rights that is all-embracing. This welcomes particularly the sectors of older people and is geared at raising awareness and effectuating improvement in attitudes, practices, policies and actions toward the more advance-aged persons.



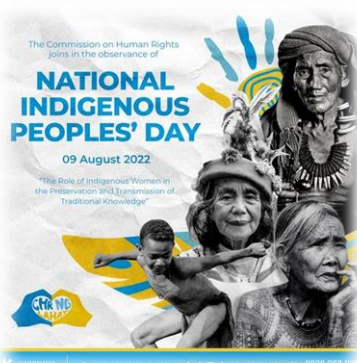
- **Elderly Filipino Week: Forum on the Right to Work of Older Persons**

The CHR set the theme of the 2022 Elderly Filipino Week celebration as “Promoting Support For The Resilience Of Older Persons In Nation-Building.” Conforming with this theme, the CHR emphasized the need to understand the value of the older persons’ contribution to nation-building and how improving their enjoyment of their right to work would eventually redound to more progress in society. As a springboard to generate public awareness, the NCSC and the CHR held a forum on the right to work of older persons simultaneously with the 2022 Elderly Filipino Week celebration.

- **Consultation for 13th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Ageing**

The CHR consulted the relevant stakeholders to gather information on the state of human rights of older Filipinos in the country and to bring together insights on what human rights mean in the context of older age. Brought together were NGOs working specifically on providing support for the older persons’ human rights and for human rights in general, members of the older persons sector themselves, and representatives from the academe.

5. Advocacy on Indigenous People



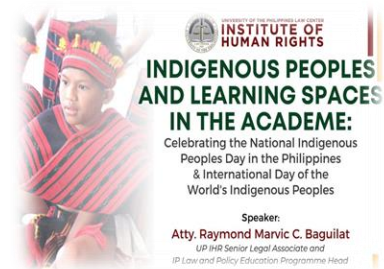
The IP in the country have been declining in number through the years due to many factors including the systematic cycle of conflict, abuse and neglect. Under this circumstance, the exact size of the indigenous population in the country is currently not determined. Notwithstanding, the Philippines has accepted and espoused the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and upholds a domestic law called Republic Act 8371 known as the Indigenous People’s Rights Acts (IPRA) that was enacted in 1997. CHR believes that the government should implement the law(s) more effectively in order to protect and prevent the country’s indigenous peoples from being downplayed, undervalued and thus, discriminated. The IP continue to live isolated in under-

developed far-flung communities, and are thus restricted from accessing basic social services. Owing further to geographical seclusion, the IP are unable to engage in opportunities for meaningful activities such as in the spheres of economics, education, and politics. To make headway towards repairing the cracks between policy and practice, training and education activities were conducted. Focusing on the IP as a priority issue is a means to build awareness on

their role in conservation, land use, ancestral domain and heritage. Their land rights should be recognized and protected.

- Indigenous Peoples and Learning Spaces in the Academe**

This forum was organized in celebration of the National Indigenous Peoples Day in the Philippines and International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. It was held at the UP-Law Center Institute of Human Rights on August 9, 2022, where Atty. Raymond Marvic C. Baguilat came as resource person. Atty. Baguilat is UP IHR Senior Legal Associate and IP Law and Policy Education Program Head. The forum was held to honor and promote the hundreds of thousands of indigenous peoples who live in the Philippines archipelagos' highlands.



6. Advocacy on Persons with Disabilities (PWD)



Persons with disabilities are some of the most exposed to harm and are often placed in a condition of elevated risk. This is due to the numerous impairments they endure and have to cope with overall. Their active, equal, balance, and meaningful participation in society are largely hampered by their limitations, such that they require substantial and immediate support from the government.

With the intention of helping them move towards reaching even just a semblance of equality with the rest of society and enabling too their optimum potential, the CHR advocates for specific protection actions on their behalf. This includes: equipping them with knowledge of their human rights; making available education and information, and forging partnership platforms to foster knowledge and understanding on the plight of the PWDs; and campaigning for the conversion of social attitudes, perceptions and behaviours toward their social grouping into more enabling, fair and supportive policies and actions.

- Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities**

This special committee meeting aimed to address the accessibility concerns of persons with disabilities in time with the 2022 national elections. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) enlightened the Committee and the persons with disabilities sector on crucial matters pertaining to the conduct of the elections and how the PWDs can fully participate and exercise their right to vote. In aid of legislation too, the Committee reviewed the current status of implementation of Republic Act No. 10366 entitled, “An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens”.

- Internal Scoping Meeting on the National Disability Guidebook**

The general objective of the project is to create a “National Disability Guidebook” that would be used as reference by government agencies and other advocates of the rights of persons with disabilities towards unifying and standardizing the terminologies in current use. The guidebook will assess and identify the gaps in the current use of disability terminologies by government agencies and public documents.



Towards this end, the participants conducted a series of focus group discussions with persons with disability, government agencies, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, the health sector and allied service professionals. The CHR sought to be of assistance to the academe in coming up with the content of the guidebook. Upon the production of the said learning material, the CHR together with its project partners will advocate for the implementation and putting into practice of said manual in the conduct of projects and programs for and with persons with disability.

- **Asia Pacific Forum Virtual Dialogue Series 2022: People with Disabilities and the Role of National Human Rights Institutions**

The objective of the activity is to provide a regional platform for the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) members and its prospective members to exchange information, share best practices, achievements, and challenges in relation to their work on people with disabilities. The National Human Rights Commission of India and Asia Pacific Forum (APF) organized and streamed the online dialogue on July 18, 2022. The discussions “provided an opportunity for NHRIs to discuss their experiences and best practices in protecting the rights of people with disabilities.”

CHR officers joined the conversations as representative of the Commission and its Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Center. Dr. DM Mulay, (a member of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC) spoke on Participation in Public and Political Life. On the other hand, Dr. Ben Gauntlett (Disability Discrimination Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission), along with Sarah Adibah (Officer of the Law and International Treaties Division, Malaysian Human Rights Commission) embarked on the topic “Barriers to Inclusion”.

The participants noted and emphasized several significant trends regarding people’s disabilities in various parts of the world. They agreed on the following: (a) that the number of persons with disabilities within various populations is growing; (b) that social stigma afflicts the persons with disabilities; (c) that the conflicting data of persons with disabilities presents a challenge; (d) that laws, regulations, and special institutions are getting better although the implementation needs to improve; and (e) that NHRIs could play key roles in strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities, despite that resources availability is a real test.

The CHR stated in its recommendations the need to strengthen its monitoring of the sector’s access to education, health, information, and employment and to bolster as well education and advocacy campaign against the discrimination and stigma being experienced by persons with disabilities in the country. It added that the Commission on Human Rights should strengthen its monitoring of the sector’s access to education, health, information, and employment.

7. Annual Celebratory Activities

- **National Human Rights Consciousness week**

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) spearheaded the 20th National Human Rights Consciousness Week (NHRCW) Kick-Off Ceremony on 05 December 2022 with the theme, “Pagtataguyod at Pagsusulong ng mga Karapatang Pantao Tungo sa Matatag na Pundasyon ng Kapayapaan, Katarungan, Kalikasan, Kaunlaran at Bayanihan,” aligned with the global slogan of Human Rights Day, “Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.”

Twenty years since the first Human Rights Week was celebrated by virtue of Republic Act No. 9201, CHR along with member government agencies and civil society organizations comprising the NHRCW Committee reaffirm commitment to perform their mandates to uphold dignity, freedom, and justice for all.

As part of the National Human Rights Consciousness Celebration, the CHR through its Human Rights Education and Promotion Office (HREPO) in partnership with the Civil Service Commission-Civil Service Institute invited the public to a special learning session on “Mainstreaming Human Rights-Based Approach in Government

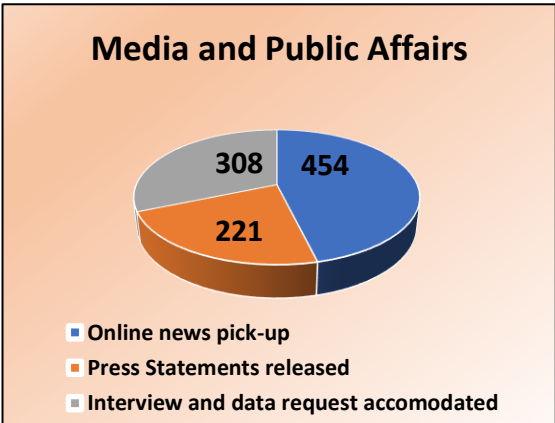


Services,” and “YSpeak Learning Snippet” on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Basics of Human Rights for Students and Teachers. It was held via Zoom on December 5 and December 9, 2022. It was also streamed by way of the HRI Facebook page.

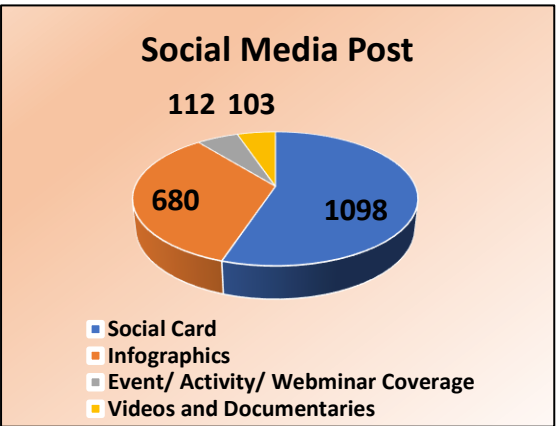
E. Media and Public Affairs

The CHR disseminated a total of 221 press releases and statements on pressing human rights issues for the entire year of 2022. These garnered 454 online news pick-ups (excluding TV, radio, and print pick-ups).

CHR also accommodated 308 media interviews/engagements and data requests for both media and academic purpose. This makes evident the well- established relationship and good standing of the CHR with the media community.



- Social Media and Campaigns



The social media presence of the CHR continued to grow in the year 2022. The official CHR Facebook page across the country now has a total of 388,764 followers—a significant 17% increase from 2021’s figures, which had 332,060 followers. Moreover, by the end of the 4th Quarter, the total number of followers and interaction of the CHR Facebook page across the country is 5,251,827.

The number of Twitter followers also increased significantly. From to 7,506 followers in 2021, CHR now has 8,820 Twitter followers, or a marked 17.5% increase-with an average daily impression of 26,356

followers. On Tiktok, CHR has 973 followers.

For 2022, a total of 1,881 social cards, 680 infographics, and 103 video materials translating CHR press statements, human rights concepts and mechanism, investigation reports, human rights news and announcements, and internal guidance into digestible and visually appealing information materials were produced. There were 112 event activities and webinar coverage too.

Social Media Followers and Interactions	
Facebook	5,251,827
Twitter	8,820
Instagram	2,828
Tiktok	973



VI. Accomplishments on Policy Advisory Program/Services

The rapid escalation of threatening dynamics worldwide has not spared the capability of national governments including the Philippines’ for a sense of real balance and cohesion. More than ever, the country has been reeling from the effects and impacts of intimidation and actual risks of various phenomena including external and internal conflicts, highly contagious diseases, climate imbalance and natural disasters, food insecurity and dwindling natural resources, among many others.

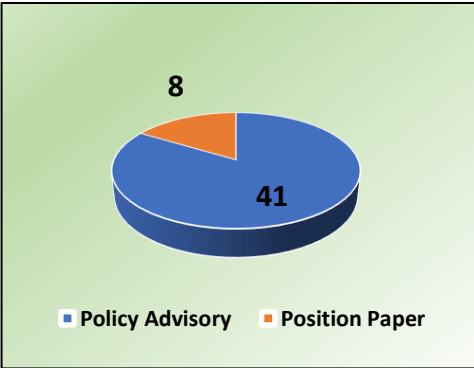


The sources of the problem have not come any closer to being resolved. On the contrary, they are even further germinating and sprouting more issues. Unless addressed meaningfully, these are expected to threaten the country’s security and stability and the implications for human rights now and in the immediate future cannot be overlooked.

The need for competent agencies to help government appreciate the situations through the human rights perspectives and thus facilitate well-informed responses and remedies is of paramount importance. The CHR performs this role through its policy advisory functions. By issuing policy statements, advisory and situation reports, and reminding about international standards and guidelines, the institution points in the right direction government leaders and policy-makers with regard to confronting complex challenges and ultimately for them to take action with appropriate policy solutions.

A. Policy Issuances

The declaration of position with respect to the official views of the Commission on current and emerging issues is publicized regularly to shed light and remind government of the State’s commitments to uphold the applicable domestic and international laws. The issuances pinpoint the appropriate guiding principles to advise the responsible agencies of government on the most sensible and advantageous actions to be taken, for the best interest of all participants involved.



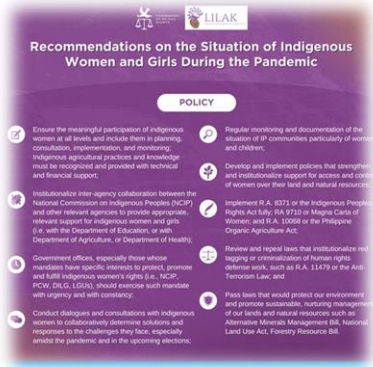
B. Situation Reports



It is the one of the most crucial functions of the CHR as a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) to keep updated on the general condition of human rights in the country through its monitoring work. By being watchful and thus keeping abreast with information on the status of the human rights agenda in given periods of time, the CHR protects and inhibits threats and actual violations from occurring and causing offense to people’s human rights.

Monitoring is only translated to useful information and best benefitted, through the writing and release of well-documented—investigated and researched situation reports. Prompt responses are the defining actions and are thus most exigent when issues that threaten human rights arise. Every time situation reports are crafted and disseminated for the perusal of the parties in authority and those most affected, it has a high potential of swaying “the attention of the government (and the public) to situations in any part of the country where human rights are violated and (thus provoke the formulation of proposals) for initiatives to put an end to such situations and, where necessary, express an opinion on the positions and reactions of the Government.”

For 2022, CHR produced and issued 27 regional reports, 2 national situation reports, 26 situation reports submitted to a UN Charter Mechanism, 8 Situation Reports submitted to a Treaty Body Mechanism, and 2 other Situation Reports to other international bodies.



C. Community-Based Dialogues

The community-based dialogue is an approach that has been adopted to complement other forms of public engagement to promote human rights, along with the core programs and the other auxiliary services. The dialogues between sectors or participants are geared at building links and fostering understanding through tentative conversations that tackle precarious situations and sensitive issues. The dialogues provide space and opportunity to apply human rights-based methods, knowledge, skills, attitudes, and principles towards coming up with remedies.

Community-based dialogues conducted by the regional offices tackled a broad range of issues having particular content. These included: (1) extra-judicial killings; (2) problems of ISFs; (3) capacity-building of the CBD CAR Core Group; (4) Persons with Disability; (5) CHR-PNP-CSO forum; (6) death penalty; (7) ESCR; (8) the uniformed sectors; (9) passage of anti-discrimination ordinance and mental health ordinance; (10) right to political participation; (11) human rights ordinances; (12) alleged discrimination of unvaccinated individuals; (13) implementation of JJWA; (14) rights of persons under custody; (15) rights of children CICL/CAR; (16) sessions on IPs; (17) community-based core group strengthening; (18) mandatory vaccination; (19) right to suffrage; (20) Safe Spaces Act; (21) IP parents with teen-age pregnant child; (22) child marriage; (23) land-grabbing; (24) HR forum with PNP, LGUs and CSOs; (25) CSAC; (26) IDP situationer and IDP bill; (27) RA 11596 on child marriage; (28) IDPs in BARMM; (29) birth registration among IPs (30) right to information; and (31) child sexual abuse.

D. Human Rights Observatory

The Human Rights Observatory (HRO) in the Philippines is a monitoring and evaluation system tracking the state’s implementation of its human rights obligations. It houses relevant documents such as laws, bills, ordinances, treaties, documentation of Supreme Court cases, human rights violation cases reported to the Commission on Human Rights, and situational reports. The HRO has observatories on the following thematic areas: (a) indigenous peoples (indigenous peoples’ human rights observatory); (b) women and LGBTIQI persons, and persons with diverse SOGIE (gender-based violence observatory); (c) overseas-based Filipino workers and members of their families (migrants’ rights observatory); populations affected by climate change and natural disasters (climate change observatory); and persons with disabilities (Philippine observatory on the rights of persons with disabilities). A 6th observatory, the Observatory for SDG 16, is currently being developed that focuses on conflict and International Humanitarian Law (IHL)-related data as part of CHR’s commitment to the SDG 16 monitoring in the Philippines.



VII. Institutional Development



Efforts at institutional development strive to make the CHR a stable and efficient organizational and structural unit by strengthening its work force capabilities as well as investing for the long-term in facility and technology improvements. There are many forms of actions and interventions comprising institutional development. On the whole, these include processes and systems corresponding to personnel’s skills and performance management, achieving diversity and heterogeneity of staffing, distributing beneficial resources and maintaining employees’ health and wellbeing, among others. All endeavors at institutional development are meant to serve and fulfil the needs of the organization towards enabling its operational functions as NHRI and achieving ultimately its targets and goals.

• Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE)

The CHR through the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence Committee conducted a nomination to award an exemplary employee who exhibited dedication to their work and excelled among peers in a functional group, position or profession. The selection process was based on the Approved Implementing Criteria and Mechanics of the CSC Approved CHR PRAISE.



On December 9 2022, a total of 80 nominees were recognized and awarded for their service and excellence. The awards include; 1 Best Employee Award; 76 Gantimpala Agad Award; 2 Exemplary Behavior Award; and 1 Personnel Motivation and Incentive Award. The awardees received a plaque of recognition and cash up to Php 10,000.00. This recognition coincided with the National Human Rights Consciousness Celebration as the CHR strongly believed that recognizing exceptional employees went hand-in-hand with upholding the principles of human rights.



• **Human Resource Complement**

With the HRDD in lead role, the task of rationalizing the form and functions of the central office units to support frontline and non-frontline services continues. It has managed to fill up the optimum number of salaried and wage-based positions that are necessary and desirable to achieve the functions, targets, and services according to the plans set for the period. The filled-up positions numbered 607 while 235 positions remained unoccupied.

The central office was able to fill up job slots up for 11 lawyers, 26 investigators, 38 trainers/education officers and 8 coterminous posts. The regional offices hired 78 new lawyers, 118 investigators, and 39 trainers/education officers. Vacancies at the central office include 9 spots for lawyers, 13 for investigators, 11 trainers/education officers and 31 more for coterminous positions. Vacancies for the same posts, except for coterminous ones at the regional offices were at 37, 46, and 14. To sum up, 318 hiring was undertaken while 161 vacancies await filling up. With respect to non-itemized positions or casuals serving on a temporary basis, 6 were hired at the central office and 3 at the regional offices for a total of 9.

• **Learning and Development**

Short courses and/or certificate programs on learning and development were provided the CHR’s rank and file, along with the executives, as a measure to impart knowledge and skills and thus professionalize and augment the capabilities of the people who make up the institution. The training series honed in on work standards, including practices for health and wellness and awareness and initiatives for gender and development (GAD). The learning and development endeavors are meant to strengthen organizational systems, design, and structure, and functions and competencies, to prepare and enable the CHR not only for threats and challenges but also for standard and routine tasks.



The training seminars conducted in 2022 for learning and development and the corresponding number of targeted versus actual number participants were as follows: (a) orientation on newly hired employees; (b) training on the rights of the older persons; (c) orientation on records management; (d) capacity building on the promotion and protection of the rights of children module 1; (e) orientation on Data Privacy Act of 2012; (f) orientation on CHR protocol on MH jail visit; (g) Training On Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules And Regulations.

Training Seminars Conducted for Learning and Development

Orientation on newly hired employees
Training on the rights of the older persons
Orientation on records management
Capacity building on the promotion and protection of the rights of children module 1
Orientation on Data Privacy Act of 2012
Orientation on CHR protocol on Mental Health jail visit
Training on Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

Mental Health Training Courses

Mental Health Learning Series—Dealing with Losses, Grief and Trauma Healing
Webinar on Emotional Wellness—A Regulatory Work Mechanism
Dealing with Organizational Rejection
Dealing with Workers’ Emotions and Responding Coherently
Creating Psychologically A Healthy Work and Family Life

▪ High-Level Capacity Building on GAD



The CHR through the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWHO) and the Human Resources Development Division with funding support from Governance in Justice (GoJUST) conducted two high level capacity-building forums on Gender and Development (GAD) in October and November 2022. The high-level capacity building aimed to orient key officials of the Commission on gender and development as a gender-inclusive and gender-sensitive strategy for its human rights work.

The capacity building activity was divided into groups and conducted into batches. The first two batches of the training were joined by the central office division chiefs, officers-in-charge, central office directors (Luzon Cluster) and the newly appointed members of the Commission En Banc. The first batch of the high-level capacity building was held on October 24-26, 2022 at Luxent Hotel wherein 26 participants composed of 22 division chiefs and/or officers-in-charge and 4 office staff attended.

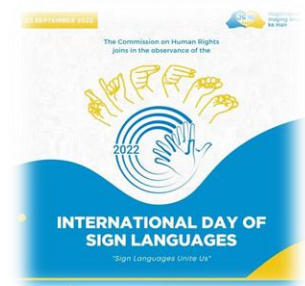
The topics discussed during the capacity building seminar included basic Gender Concepts, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression and Sex Characteristics 101 (SOGIESC 1010), Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Analysis and Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting.

▪ Capacity Building on Ageism and Older Person

In partnership with the Human Rights Policy Advisory Office (HRPAO), the Human Resource Development Division (HRDD) conducted the first and second batches of online lecture-sessions for capacity building on the rights of older persons and ageism. The capacity building discussed the: (a) situation of older persons in the Philippines; (b) raised awareness on ageism and how it can be addressed; and the (c) local and international laws on ageing and the rights of older persons.

▪ Filipino Sign Language for ESCR Focal Persons at the Central and Regional Offices

This was a technical run for the training on Filipino Sign Language for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Focal Persons at the Central and Regional Offices held in Butuan City. Personnel of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Caraga attended and completed the training exercises on Filipino Sign Language and were later conferred certificates of participation in the finale of the activity held on November 10 at the Events Center of SM City Butuan. The training sessions coincided with the commemoration of Proclamation No. 829 which declares every November 10 to 16 of every year as “Deaf Awareness Week.” The CHR provincial office’s participation was meant to recognize and observe the Republic Act No. 11106 also known as Filipino Sign Language Law.



Atty. Aurora Luanne Cembrano-Ramos, regional director of CHR Caraga, said that the trial exercise “aims to equip the CHR employees to become effective communicators and human rights implementers as they perform their duties and responsibilities especially in handling their deaf and mute clients.”

• Prime HRM Accreditation



To further consolidate its organizational capability and integrity along the lines of its “Strategic Objectives Success Indicators Matrix” that was formulated to cover six years prior to and including 2022 as the end year, the CHR identified the areas of improvement to pay attention to specifically on the internal processes’ perspective. These were to: (a) improve core and support processes; (b) exchange data, information

and knowledge with partners; (c) develop research and development systems and processes; and (d) leverage the use of information technology (IT) for efficient and effective service.



The corresponding indicators to be achieved and monitored for each task were the: (a) average percentage reduction in process duration; (b) percentage increase of identified partners with whom CHR has formal data exchange mechanisms; (c) percentage increase of research and development (R and D) systems; (d) processes planned are developed as scheduled; and (e) percentage decrease in execution time of IT-enabled processes.

The CHR underwent the PRIME HRM training and assessment to improve its processes and implementing mechanisms.

“The Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) integrates and enhances the Personnel Management Assessment and Assistance Program (PMAAP) and the CSC Agency Accreditation Program (CSCAAP). The said program is a mechanism that empowers government agencies by developing their human resource management competencies, systems, and practices toward HR excellence. PRIME-HRM entails greater engagement not just of the human resource management officer (HRMO) but also of the officials and the rank-and-file employees of the agency.”

In 2022, preparatory activities to comply with the requirements of PRIME HRM accreditation were planned and organized. Training sessions under this government program would proceed until all stages of the assessment are undertaken and customized assistance as needed, obtained.

So far achieved are the following: (a) status of activities towards Maturity Level 2 has been reached; (b) completed the review of the evidence requirements in recruitment and PRAISE; (c) compliance with the first ever nomination process beginning with developing evaluation tools; and (d) implementation of the PRAISE System, with the year 2022 as the first year of implementation.

• **Health, Safety, Security & Wellness Programs**

With the issuance of the CSC-DOH-DOLE Joint Memorandum of Agreement Circular No. 1 in 2020, workers in the public sector are being entitled to benefit from mandatory health and safety entitlements. The joint memorandum “aims to institutionalize occupational safety and health (OSH) in government workplaces to protect government workers from the dangers of injury, sickness, or death, and to prevent loss or damage of properties through the adoption of safe and healthy working conditions.”

Under the scope and objectives, the memorandum further states that: “This Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Public Sector is aimed at protecting all government employees from the dangers of injury, sickness or death in the workplace through the adoption of safe and healthy working conditions to ensure the preservation of human lives and resources and prevent loss/damage of properties.”

The memorandum cited in particular that the guidelines seek to: “(a) institutionalize occupational health and safety in the public sector and government workplaces; (b) identify and delineate roles and responsibilities of lead agencies, heads of agencies and safety and health committees, within the scope of the Joint Memorandum Circular; and (c) establish safety and health committees within government agencies.”

Responding to the memorandum, the CHR conducted seminars and assigned a disaster/emergency response team to ensure disaster/emergency preparedness; created and activated an occupational safety committee; provided vaccination/booster shots for CHR employees; built gym facilities & wellness equipment, and embarked on mental health and wellness program of activities.

• **Quality Management System**

As part of its dedication to support and adopt quality standards in all the facets of its services, the CHR has been undergoing training on international standard for quality management under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It has adopted a Quality Management System (QMS) Progress mapping and tracking for the said purpose. Its QMS mirrors the quality policy adhered to by the CHR, which states: “the Commission on Human Rights commits to provide prompt, accessible, responsive, and excellent public services in accordance with our Constitutional mandates and universal human rights standards, and continually improve our

Quality Management System to meet the requirements of our clients and stakeholders.” The fiscal year 2022 saw the Commission on Human Rights capitalize on its successful up-scaling of its ISO 9001:2015 certification in 2021 through the addition of a Central Office unit and other Regional Offices.



This expansion was comprised of the Central Office’s Human Rights and Policy Advisory Office, Regional Offices II, X, and IV-A. They will join the recently-certified ROs I, V, XI, and CARAGA which will be undergoing surveillance audits.

The initial outcomes for CHR under the QMS venture included the following : (a) updating of the primary QMS forms to address the prior year’s external audit findings which resulted in the Risk Register and Monitoring Form, the Quality Control Plan, and the Stakeholders’ Map that is now aligned with and serves as a trigger document for the AWFP; (b) development of guidelines for the implementation of the QMS documents as well as the Guidelines on the Control of Documented Information; (c) documentation of existing processes; (d) continuous provision of technical assistance [e.g., refresher courses, review of documents, consultations, etc.] to Central and Regional Offices in preparation for their respective internal quality audits; (e) provision of technical and administrative support such as coordination, facilitation of proceedings, minutes-taking, and preparation of memorandum-directives to address emergent issues) to the Office of the Executive Director as regards the conduct of the Management Review; and (f) facilitation of the ISO 9001- 2015 Certification of Regional Offices I, V, XI, and CARAGA, and the subsequent provision of technical assistance to said offices to address all the findings.

- **Budget and Financial Accomplishments and Reporting**

The CHR’s resource perspective for its budget and financial requirements has been to creatively and diligently draw on more resources from the large donor community and to take advantage of the Department of Budget Management (DBM) budget reforms under the Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC). The PREXC “is a reform that restructures the current budget by grouping activities and projects under major programs or key strategies. Through this innovation, the government will be able to assign performance targets—both outputs and outcomes—at the level of programs. This way, the direct link between strategies, budgets and intended results will be clearer and program monitoring and evaluation can provide evidence-based assessments.” The CHR strives to comply with the budget reform through better transparency and accountability. Initially, it is now doing its best to improve its budget utilization rate.

The budget utilization rate (BUR) of CHR for the year shows that a substantive percentage of the projects and activities laid out for the period has been reached and that the funds assigned were spent appropriately. With a high rate of budget utilization, the CHR has been delivering on the indicated outcomes toward the end of the implementation period. As of the fourth quarter ending on Dec. 31, 2022, the CHR was able to incur total obligation of P1,083,521,051.70 out of the total allotment of P1,084,966,402.41 or an obligation (BUR) of 99.87%. The total disbursements reported was P 1,077,438,139.53 or 99.44% of the obligated amount (which includes Current and Continuing Appropriations).



- Annual Audit Report on the CHR**

In 2022, the Statement of Audit Suspensions, Disallowances and Charges (SASDC) issued by the Commission on Audit (COA) indicated Php 0.00 total audit suspensions, disallowances and charges found in the audit of various transactions of the CHR. The SASDC is a written summary of the total balance of the audited accounts of the agency at the end of each quarter. It shows the total issued suspensions, disallowances, charges and settlements for the quarter and the running balance of each as of quarter end. Hence, should there be any unsettled suspension, disallowance and charges at the end of the calendar year (as reflected in the SASDC for the last quarter), the same shall be reported in the Annual Audit Report (AAR) of the same year. Accordingly, the CHR is compliant on this aspect of the AAR, along with other parameters included in the scope of audit.

Thus, for 2022, the Commission on Audit (CoA) rendered an “unqualified opinion” on the fairness of presentation of the CHR’s financial statements, the highest evaluation granted by the CoA to government agencies, indicating strong internal controls and ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the financial statements.

- Improvements and Infrastructure Construction and Major Renovations**

General improvement of the physical premises involving infrastructure construction and major renovations, including repair works of the supporting installations were undertaken. The CHR has always been committed to upgrading its work environment and its conditions to facilitate and make safe the functions of interconnected systems comprising the Commission’s headquarters. These undertakings were also consistent with the aim to provide safer and better working spaces and conditions for all the Commission’s personnel.

The renovation of the central office’s facilities has been to a large extent, the focus of infrastructure improvements undertaken by the CHR since 2019 until 2022. As a prerequisite and to finalize the MOA, the agreement with the DPWH on the completion of the new CHR building has been endorsed by all project parties. The project status for the completion of the new CHR building has reached phase one, which involves the structural, electrical, plumbing and fire protection improvements and phase two, entailing architectural and interior finishing. Phase 1 cost Php 85M and is now 100% complete while phase 2 cost 24M and 90% complete.

- Procurement of ICT Equipment & ICT Software Subscriptions**

For the fiscal year (FY) 2022, forty-two (42) additional units of laptops and thirty-three (33) desktop PCs totaling Php 5,045,000 were procured to further support the electronic-based operations requirements of the Commission at the Central and Regional Offices.

Particulars (Specific Items)	Quantity
Laptops	13
Laptops	29
Desktop PCs	33

As of yearend, the information and communications technologies (ICT) equipment (desktop PC and laptop) to personnel ratio has reached two to one (2:1).

The purchasing office of the CHR, signed up for subscription to various ICT software vendor companies or entities to purchase and ensure the security of database, such as Anti-Virus and Firewall Management Software Licenses specifically for the Central and Regional Offices. On top of these, the CHR also proceeded with its Webmail Hosting Subscription, which enabled for the very first time, the creation of an official CHR email domain.

Particulars (Specific Items)	Quantity
Webmail Hosting Subscription	690
Anti-virus Subscription	806
Redundant Internet Subscription for C.O.	1
Firewall Management Software License C.O.	1
Firewall Management Software License R.O.	14
Video Conferencing Tool Subscription	1

- **Good Governance Conditions (GGC) Score Card**

In the interest of upholding good governance, the CHR endeavored to comply with the AO 25 requirements on agency accountabilities, which included the updating of Transparency Seal, Compliance to Audit Findings and Liquidation of Cash Advances, and compliance to procurement requirements of the GPPB, among others. With these and the CHR’s full observance of the requirements as to the four dimensions of accountability, the Commission was able to qualify for the grant of the FY 2021 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB), with a remarkable PBB rating of 100%. For 2022, the CHR has made equal efforts to meet good governance practices and established the groundwork for GGC conditions. It has sustained compliance with COA audit outcomes, wherein to reciprocate such findings, the agency duly observed and implemented all twenty-eight (28) recommendations contained in the assessment report, and thus attaining 100% compliance for the year.



In furtherance to establishing the GGC conditions under which agencies are required to submit regularly their accountability reports to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Commission on Audit (COA), the CHR has been aligning its responsibilities as mandated in the pertinent sections of the General Provisions of the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). The Commission completed the online submission of its Financial Accountability Reports (FARs) in the DBM’s Unified Reporting System (URS) on time. Doing so, it was able to meet the prescribed deadline, which allowed thirty days (30) after the end of each quarter. Punctuality in terms of overall compliance with the requirements of the pertinent agencies is demonstrated further in timely submission of financial reports to the COA, updating of the Citizen’s Charter in compliance with the requirements of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), and Overall Customer Satisfaction rating of 4.94 (equivalent to “Very Satisfactory”) gathered from 6,666 total respondents.

- **Externally-Funded Projects**

The CHR, in partnership with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) through the Country Partnership (MAP) to initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, mainly through several initiatives with the project entitled “FORTALEZA: Strengthening of the Philippine Commission on Human Rights”.

The results obtained with this intervention and the solid relations between AECID and the CHR led to the signing of a delegated cooperation agreement between European Union (EU) and AECID for the implementation of the GoJUST Human Rights Project. AECID's main partner in this project is the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), but the Regional Human Rights Commission (RHRC) of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) also participates as implementing partner, since it caters to an area with special incidence of violence and human rights violations.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of both institutions to carry out their respective mandates, as well as support to multiple civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen their role in the defense of human rights and in the fight against impunity for human rights violations, as plaintiffs of justice and guarantors of accountability and support for victims.



Concluding Statement

All things considered with respect to what it has accomplished in 2022, the subsequent years will see the CHR journeying down the path of service as provided by our Constitutional mandate with even more verve and determination.

As 2022 ends, a new chapter begins too. Beyond 2022 and for as long as the Commission wields all the authority of a National Human Rights Institution and satisfies the trust of the people, the vision, mission and goals set forth to form the foundation of institutional existence and “being” over the last 35 years, will be upheld. To this extent, the CHR reiterates its vision, mission and goal vows as follows:

“To pursue a just and humane Philippine society of persons equal in opportunity, living a life of dignity, and forever vigilant against abuses and oppression;

As conscience of government and the people, we seek truth in human rights issues. As beacon of truth, we make people aware of their rights, and guide government and society towards actions that respect the rights of all, particularly those who cannot defend themselves — the disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerable.

To be the prime mover in strengthening respect, understanding, and practice of human rights as the essential cornerstone of peace, unity, and nation-building.”

The CHR continues to be dedicated in striving to prevail over the challenges to human rights protection and promotion. It will work autonomously as well as engage in vibrant cooperation with partners specifically against persisting internal and external issues. The CHR will confront and address the under-appreciation and low application of human rights values in society in general. It will support all appeals and actions urging government to solve the increasing socio-economic problems, which tend to persecute the more vulnerable and marginalized sectors. It will take note and call redress to the State’s failure every so often to comply with human rights standards and commitments. It will shore up all capabilities and through performance-based approach, resist the risk of reduced prioritization and support by the pertinent government agencies of human rights programs.

At any rate, and to the degree of the accomplishments made in 2022 and further, CHR will continue fully defending and enabling efforts at putting right the wrongs committed. The disadvantaged sectors can expect that they will be heard, informed, duly represented, defended, and their rights guaranteed in the courts of law. Policies and mechanisms that protect human rights and prevent the violations thereof will be pursued along with the formulation and adoption of every viable lawful and democratic legal tool. Institutional development in all facets and layers will be undertaken with equal focus on research, information technology, skills upgrading, efficient resource management, and overall organizational augmentation of institutional functions and capabilities. With optimism, all of these altogether, will bring about even just bit by bit results after all, towards the country’s aspirations for equality, justice and accountability where it concerns human rights.

In these endeavors, we urge for the largest collective participation. We call for a national teamwork, where all stakeholders stand for a point of view, for a voice, for a reason, for a life and its hope for the future—a fusion of dedicated forces that moves, for the reforms and the bright scenario that we aspire for specifically for human rights—right now and in the coming years.