



ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

January to December 2017

**Prepared by the
Planning and Management Office-
Planning Division**

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Executive Summary

The responsibility to popularize what is human rights in general is more urgent than ever especially with the present conjuncture, where respect for human dignity and for human rights are being challenged, disregarded and trampled upon. Although faced with these challenges and hindrances, it does not prevent the Commission on Human Rights to carry-out its mandate and to continuously serve its stakeholders.

In monitoring the human rights situation in the country, the Commission documented a total of 7,005 complaints and requests of different types of human rights violations involving 2,133 victims and 2,219 alleged respondents. Based on the preliminary evaluation of new complaints received, only 1,710 required full blown investigation, while majority or 5,252 required various legal aid and counselling services, while some 43 complaints were pending evaluation.

For 2017, the Commission resolved 1,231 cases that include cases filed in previous years. Of this number, 389 were resolved for filing and monitoring; 700 were closed / terminated / or dismissed; 67 were archived; and 75 were resolved through alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

As a result of the war on drugs of the current Administration, the Extra Judicial Killing of minors, Kian De los Santos, Carl Arnaiz, and Kulot De Guzman were investigated by the Commission, aside from other notable high profile cases, such as the Barros Case, Macaundar, Cedeno, and Corver, among many others.

In the exercise of its visitorial powers, the Commission conducted 1,759 jail visitations nationwide. Of the total, 9,070 inmates were provided legal assistance among the 10,237 inmates who have been visited.

In the conduct of independent investigations, the Commission's Forensic Center attended to various cases requiring independent medico-legal services including autopsies and exhumations. The 91 Forensic Services include 51 Medico-Physical Examinations, 27 Exhumation/Autopsy, and 13 Medical Examinations.

Furthermore, a total of 1,627 human rights certifications and clearance of no pending human rights violation were issued to uniformed personnel who applied for promotion or for further studies abroad.

As of December 31, 2017, the Commission exceeded all its targets, except in the number of resolved cases with final action with 93.27% (1,164/ 1,248). In terms of the budget, the Commission utilized 107.18% out of the allotted amount for HR Protection Services.

MFOs and Performance Indicators (PIs)	2017 Targets	2017 Accomplishments	2017 Total Allotment	2017 Actual Obligation
MFO1: Human Rights Protection Services			302,526,000	324,249,000

MFOs and Performance Indicators (PIs)	2017 Targets	2017 Accomplishments	2017 Total Allotment	2017 Actual Obligation
PI 1: Number of persons assisted	13,758	19,988		
PI 2: Percentage of complainants / clients dissatisfied with services rendered	Not more than 20%	.3%		
PI 3: Percentage of complaints evaluated 3 working days prior to the prescribed period	80%	91.16%		
PI 1: Number of resolved cases with final action	1,248	1,164		
PI 2: Percentage of resolved human rights violations cases resulting in access to remedies	57%	58.29%		
PI 3: Percentage of cases resolved in 5 working days prior to the prescribed period	50%	60.27%		

The central and regional offices collaborated to conduct various information and education activities nationwide. Of the 1,411 information and education activities conducted, 315 of these were seminars/trainings, 606 lectures/talks, 167 orientations and 323 other information dissemination activities covering various topics on human rights. A total of 120,828 participants attended these information and education activities. The participants of these activities were mainly composed of PNP, Military, NGA, LGU, PDL and Students from the Academe. Likewise, the Commission also focused in conducting various information and education activities that give emphasis to the rights of the Youth, Children, LGBTs and Senior Citizens.

To further promote consciousness and to celebrate the milestones of human rights, the Commission organized 516 Celebratory events/ promotional events attended by 58, 997 participants. These events were celebrated together with partners from Government Offices (GOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Faced by human rights challenges, the Commission instill the importance and significance of Human Rights by developing and disseminating various IEC materials to several parts of the Philippines in the form of flyers, bulletins, etc. Aside from IEC materials, the CHR is diligent in widening the reach of human rights concerns by online means. Hence, 361 Social Media Cards and Infographics; 9 Social Media Banners; and 37 videos were produced for the year to educate people in human rights concepts.

Amplification of Human Rights presence in online platform is one of the strategies of the Commission in order for the people to rely and build more confidence in the CHR. The official CHR Facebook page reached 36,293 page likes in 2017 from 3,186 from the previous year (1,139.14% increase); and 1,817 followers on Twitter from 4 in 2016 (45,425% increase).

Other means of raising public awareness and molding public opinion is through the issuance of press statements or press releases on human rights issues and concerns. For the year, the Commission issued a total of 55 press statements or press releases on pressing human rights and CHR issues.

The Commission surpassed all its targets especially in the number of participants who completed human rights education activities with 175.74%. In terms of the budget, the Commission utilized 98.92% out of the allotted amount for HR Promotion Services.

MFOs and Performance Indicators (PIs)	2017 Targets	2017 Accomplishments	2017 Total Allotment	2017 Actual Obligation
MFO 2: Human Rights Promotion Services			71,564,000	73,711,000
PI 1: Number of participants who completed HR education activities	63,710	111,962		
PI 2: Percentage of participants who passed the post training tests	80	95.43%		
PI 3: Percentage of HR education activities implemented as scheduled	90%	96.53%		
PI 1: Number of human rights IEC materials developed and disseminated	25	469		
PI 2: Percentage of stakeholders that rate human rights IEC materials as good or better	70%	99.74%		
PI 3: Percentage of human rights IEC materials developed and disseminated as scheduled	70%	100%		
PI 1: Number of celebratory/promotional human rights events held	320	493		
PI 2: Percentage of target population who are aware of CHR held events	90	96.93%		
PI 3: Percentage of human rights held events as scheduled	90%	98.18%		

As the National Human Rights Institution in the country, the Commission is mandated to recommend and provide appropriate and effective measures for the promotion and protection of human rights.

For 2017, the Commission issued 16 human rights position papers to government agencies and institutions on its stand on national as well as local issues and concerns impacting on human rights; and 16 human rights advisories to inform and provide guidance to the legislative, executive, judicial branches of government, and non-government sectors.

The Commission also issued/ released 39 Human Rights Situation Reports covering various thematic or sectoral issues and concerns.

As of December 31, 2017, the Commission exceeded all its targets under the HR Policy Advisory Services. In terms of the budget, the Commission utilized 100.67% out of the allotted amount for HR Policy Advisory Services.

MFOs and Performance Indicators (PIs)	2017 Targets	2017 Accomplishments	2017 Total Allotment	2017 Actual Obligation
MFO 3: Human Rights Policy Services			72,359,000	72,844,000
PI 1: Number of human rights policies issued and disseminated	27	32		
PI 2: Percentage of stakeholders that rate human rights policies as good or better	31%	100%		
PI 3: Percentage of human rights policies issued in the last 3 years that are reviewed and/or updated and disseminated	50%	84.42%		
PI 1: Number of treaty reports and/or human rights situationer reports issued/submitted	25	39		
PI 2: Percentage of reports rated by stakeholders as good or better	70%	100%		
PI 3: Percentage of reports released within 2 days before the schedule	80%	82.93%		

As of December 31, 2017, the Commission has filled up 612 positions out of 851 positions in the organizational structure.

Furthermore, the increase in the appointment of lawyers and investigators helped in the fast track of the resolution of HRV cases; and the additional Trainors/Education Officers helped in furthering the promotion of human rights nationwide. The Commission also employed

Indigenous Peoples and Persons with Disabilities to maximize their potentials and to promote equality.

In terms of the budget, the Commission utilized 133.73% out of the allotted amount for Support to Operations and utilized 119.40% out of the allotted amount for General Administration and Support Services.

MFOs and Performance Indicators (PIs)	2017 Targets	2017 Accomplishments	2017 Total Allotment	2017 Actual Obligation
Support to Operations			21,068,000	28,176,000
PI 1: Approved Quality Manual Submitted	1	Approved Procedures and Work Instruction Manual including Forms on Preventive Jail Visitation; and Evidence ISO 9001-aligned QMS Implementation A. Certification of the Head of the Agency on the conduct of Internal Quality Audit; and B. Minutes of the FY 2017 Management Review		
PI 2: Number of innovations including internal policies, guidelines, systems processes, programs, and other strategic initiatives to improve operations that are approved	6	13		
General Administration and Support Services (GASS)			187,650,000	224,052,000
PI 1: Budget Utilization Rate (BUR) - Obligations	100%	100%		

MFOs and Performance Indicators (PIs)	2017 Targets	2017 Accomplishments	2017 Total Allotment	2017 Actual Obligation
(BUR) - Disbursements	78%	(BUR) - Disbursements		
Submission to COA of Year – End Financial Statements (per PD 1445)	100%	100%		
Submission to COA of Report on Ageing of Cash Advances (cut-off date - every November 15)	100%	100%		
Compliance to COA Audit Recommendations	Full Compliance with at least 30% of the prior year's COA Audit Recommendations	68%		

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION SERVICES

Asserting that everyone has access to basic human rights services is central to the Commission's role of protecting human rights. Asserting access to protection services entails judicious monitoring on the complaints, cases, and requests the Commission receives.

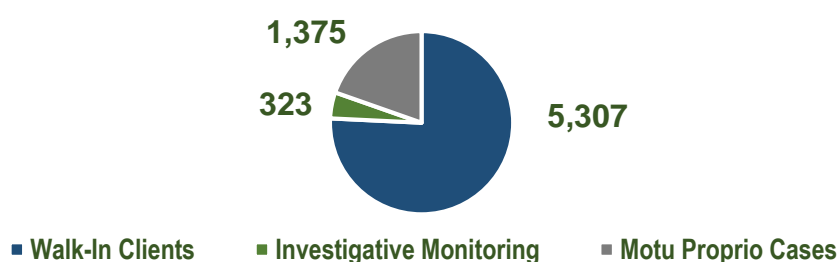
Human rights protection services cover the entire case management process from receiving of complaints, filing, documentation, investigation / fact finding / public inquiry, conduct of alternative dispute resolution, application of forensic techniques in aid of investigation, case resolution, and monitoring of findings and recommendations of cases filed in courts. Human rights protection services also include legal aid, counseling, representation, and paralegal services provided specially to disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable sectors such as women, children, internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples, persons deprived of liberty (e.g. prisoners, detainees, etc.), and persons with disability. In addition, the Commission provides other forms of assistance such as financial assistance to complainants, victims and witnesses and their families in the course of the investigation of their complaints of human rights violations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2017

Documentation of Human Rights Complaints

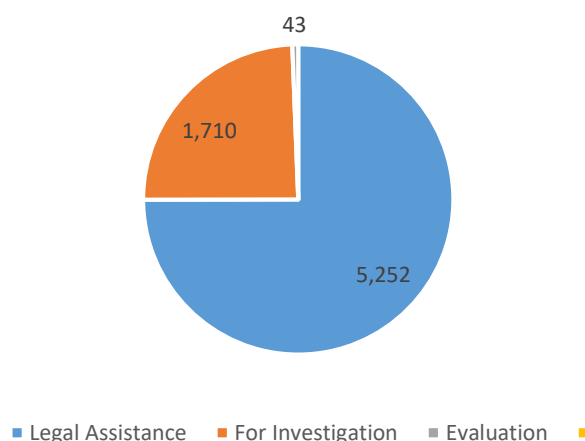
For the period January - December 2017, the Commission received a total of **7,005** complaints and requests for protection services, an increase of **3.39%** 2017. Of this total, **5,307 (75.76%)** came from walk-in clients, **323 (4.61%)** from investigative monitoring, and **1,375 (19.63%)** from motu proprio cases.

Figure 1: BREAKDOWN OF REQUESTS FOR PROTECTION SERVICES, by SOURCE 2017



Based on the evaluation of complaints and requests, out of the **7,005** requests for protection services, **5,252 (74.98%)** are for legal assistance, **1,710 (24.41%)** are for investigation, and **43 (0.61%)** are for evaluation.

**Figure 2: Request for Protection Services
(By Results of Evaluation)**



It is significant to note that two Regions, NCR and IV have more cases for investigation than requests for legal assistance.

The evaluation of complaints and requests is further detailed *by Regional Office*. As shown in the following table, in terms of the highest recorded number of cases Region VII has **769** for legal assistance, Region IV-A has **382** for investigation, and NCR has **19** for evaluation.

**Table 1: EVALUATION OF COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS
(By Results of Evaluation and by Region)**

REGION	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	STATUS OF EVALUATION		
		FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE	FOR INVESTIGATION	FOR EVALUATION
NCR	280	76	185	19
CAR	137	104	33	0
I	707	659	47	1
II	468	348	118	2
III	295	86	209	0
IV-A	581	199	382	0
IV-B	18	7	8	3
V	781	661	120	0
VI	249	178	66	5
VII	852	769	82	1
VIII	349	299	46	4
IX	763	590	171	2
X	522	452	69	1
XI	258	151	107	0
XII	537	519	18	0

CARAGA	208	154	49	0
TOTAL	7,005	5,252	1,710	43

Legal Assistance

Out of the **5,252** cases for legal assistance, **5,200** cases were provided legal counseling, **9** were referred to other agencies or determined with no human rights violations, and **43** provided with other kinds of assistance (*which can include investigation assistance*).

Sex Disaggregation of Victims, Complainants, and Respondents for Investigation

Out of the **1,710** complaints received for Investigation, there are a total of **2,133** victims and complainants. Out of this total, **1,373 (64.37%)** are male, **567 (26.58%)** are female, and **193 (9.05%)** are considered no entry or no record of victim found in the complaint / case. No entry or no record of respondent means no record of respondent found in the complaint / case.

Table 2: Sex Disaggregation of Alleged Victims and Complainants on Cases for Investigation
(By Sex and by Region)

Region	Male	Female	No Entry	Total
NCR	55	47	100	202
CAR	30	19	3	52
I	20	29	0	49
II	98	28	2	128
III	216	26	16	258
IV-A	292	153	28	473
IV-B	8	1	1	10
V	80	45	8	133
VI	83	8	1	92
VII	94	27	9	130
VIII	35	17	0	52
IX	93	103	17	213
X	89	20	2	111
XI	118	33	2	153
XII	12	5	4	21
CARAGA	50	6	0	56
Total	1,373	567	193	2,133

As to respondents, out of the **1,710** complaints for Investigation, there are a total of **2,219** of which **1,643 (74.04%)** are male, **117 (5.27%)** are female, and **459 (20.68%)** are no entry.

No entry or no record of respondent means no record of respondent found in the complaint / case.

Table 3: Sex Disaggregation of Alleged Respondents on Cases for Investigation
(By Sex and by Region)

Region	Male	Female	No Entry	Total
NCR	118	30	95	243
CAR	32	1	4	37
I	64	2	6	72
II	132	6	5	143
III	143	12	83	238
IV-A	285	21	144	450
IV-B	1	2	6	9
V	133	2	21	156
VI	66	3	7	76
VII	121	4	26	151
VIII	105	15	1	121
IX	178	10	21	209
X	84	4	4	92
XI	116	5	25	146
XII	24	0	3	27
CARAGA	41	0	8	49
Total	1,643	117	459	2,219

Violations of Civil and Political Rights

There are a total of **1,263** Complaints/Cases on Violations of Civil and Political Rights. Of these total, the violation of right to life garnered the most number of complaints with **756** or **59.86%** of the complaints.

Table 4: Complaints/Cases on Violations of Civil and Political Rights

Complaints/Cases on Violations of Civil and Political Rights	Number
Right to life	756
Right to protection of honor and reputation	195
Freedom from torture	71
Right to liberty and security	125
Right not to be deprive of property arbitrarily	38
Rights of the accused	16
Right to due process	9
Right to liberty of movement	4
Right to freedom from arbitrary interference	26
Right to take part in the government of his country	1

Right to freedom from discrimination	22
Total	1,263

Violations of ESC Rights

The Commission provided also legal assistance in Complaints/Cases on Violations of Economic Social Cultural Rights. A total of **141** violations on ESCR have been identified with **12** on violation on Economic Rights and **129** on violation of Social Rights.

Table 5: Complaints/Cases on Violations of ESC Rights

Complaints/Cases on Violations of ESC Rights	Number
Economic Rights	
Right to work and employment opportunities	2
Right to receive fair wages and equal remuneration	7
Right to pursue their economic development	0
Right to work under safe and healthy working conditions	1
Right to reasonable working hours	1
Right to form and join trade unions	1
Social Rights	
Right to protection and special assistance of children	47
Right to equal rights/ responsibilities as to marriage	23
Right to housing	15
Right to own property	10
Right to appropriate health care and services	8
Right to the continuous improvement of living condition	4
Right to adequate standards of living	3
Right to equal access to public service	8
Right to access to education	3
Right to adequate food/water	1
Improvements of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene	2
Right to social security and insurance	0
Right to pursue their social development	2
Accessibility (non-discrimination, physical, economic, information)	1
Creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service	2
Prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic	0
Right to rest and recreation	0
ESCR GRAND TOTAL:	141

For the year 2017, Murder/Homicide/ Killing are the Most Reported Cases for Investigation with **580** reports.

Table 6: Most Reported Cases for Investigation

Case Type	2017
Murder/ Homicide/ Killing	580
Rape	121
Child Abuse	85
Arrest/ Detention	76
Violence Against Women	61
Abuse of Authority	40
Physical Injuries	36
Harassment	30
Child Support	16

Gender-Related Complaints/Cases

There are a total of **530** Gender-Related Complaints. Region IX has the most number of reported cases with **100** complaints. The following table details Gender Related Complaints/Cases for each regional office.

Table 7: Number of Victims of Gender Related Complaints/Cases Filed with CHR By (Region and by Sex)

Region	Complaints/ Cases	Victims		
		Male	Female	Total
NCR	20	7	15	22
CAR	8		7	7
I	41	9	34	43
II	11	4	9	13
III	18	5	8	13
IVA	46	23	37	60
IVB	1	0	1	1
V	18	4	12	16
VI	28	26	14	40
VII	0	0	0	0
VIII	17	2	13	15
IX	98	20	80	100
X	76	31	28	59
XI	24	28	16	44
XII	10	6	11	17
CARAGA	76	48	32	80
TOTAL	492	213	317	530

Number of EJK, Torture and Enforced Disappearance

There are a total of **232** cases of EJKs with **288** victims. Region III has the highest number of cases of EJKs with **93** cases or **40.32%**. There are a total of **6** cases of Enforced Disappearance and **6** victims while a total of **49** cases of torture with **96** victims have been identified by the Commission.

Table 8: Number of EJK, Torture and Enforced Disappearance

Region	EJK		ED		Torture	
	Number of Cases	Number of Victims	Number of Cases	Number of Victims	Number of Cases	Number of Victims
NCR	3	0	2	2	1	0
CAR	1	0	1	1	1	1
I	4	4	0	0	2	3
II	16	18	0	0	0	0
III	93	109	1	1	4	10
IV	28	30	0	0	5	5
V	5	6	0	0	4	7
VI	20	24	0	0	1	1
VII	16	17	0	0	5	42
VIII	12	13	1	1	0	0
IX	2	10	0	0	8	8
X	4	20	0	0	12	14
XI	0	0	0	0	3	3
XII	0	0	1	1	0	0
CARAGA	28	34	0	0	3	2
Total	232	288	6	6	49	96

**the total number of ejk cases is not the actual total number as many complaints are still being verified and have not been inputted in MAREIS.*

Housing Related Complaints/Cases Filed with the CHR

The Commission also provides legal assistance for **Housing Related Complaints/Cases**. There are a total of **48** Housing Related Complaints Filed with the CHR.

Table 9: Housing Related Complaints/Cases Filed with the CHR

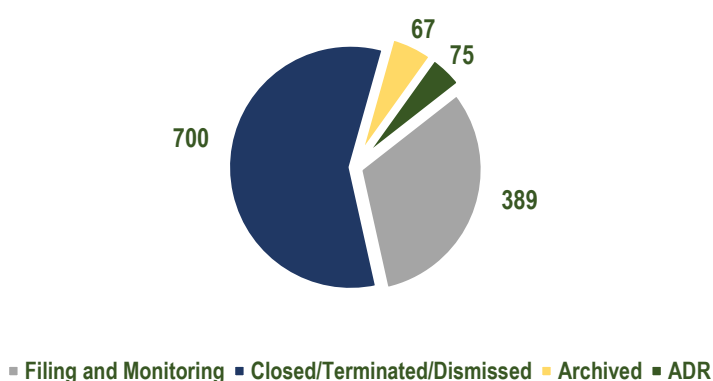
Case Type	2017
Demolition (Forced/ Illegal)	24
Eviction (Forced/ Illegal)	8
Destruction of Property	8
Displacements	6
Ejection (Forced/ Illegal)	2
Total	48

Disposition of Human Rights Cases

Based on the results of investigation, the Commission resolved **1,231** cases that include cases filed in previous years.

Of this number, **389** were resolved for filing and monitoring; **700** were closed / terminated / or dismissed; **67** were archived; and **75** were resolved through alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Figure 3: RESOLVED CASES



The following table shows that Region IX has the highest instance of resolved cases with **188**. The table also shows that Region IV-A has the highest instance of resolved cases that were subjected to alternative dispute resolution with **43**. Region V has the highest instance of resolved cases categorized under closed / terminated / dismissed with **116**; Region IX has the highest instance of resolved cases categorized under filed and monitored with **120**; and Region IX has the highest instance of resolved cases that were archived with **25**.

**Table 10: NUMBER OF RESOLVED CASES
(By Region and by Disposition)**

REGION	ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION	CLOSED / TERMINATED / DISMISSED	FILING AND MONITORING	ARCHIVED	TOTAL
NCR	1	38	12	3	54
CAR	0	21	8	1	30
I	0	19	29	0	48
II	4	95	23	15	137
III	18	67	27	0	112
IV-A	43	66	50	4	163
IV-B	0	0	0	0	0
V	4	116	37	16	173
VI	1	38	18	2	59
VII	0	5	9	0	14
VIII	0	32	21	0	53
IX	3	40	120	25	188
X	1	51	8	0	60
XI	0	80	24	1	105
XII	0	7	0	0	7
CARAGA	0	25	3	0	28

TOTAL	75	700	389	67	1,231
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Monitoring of Jails / Detention Centers

In the exercise of its visitorial powers, the Commission conducted **1,759** jail visitations nationwide covering **10,237** inmates who have been visited. Of the total number of inmates, **9,070** were provided legal assistance.

Table 11: NUMBER OF JAIL VISITATIONS, INMATES, AND PDLs PROVIDED WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE

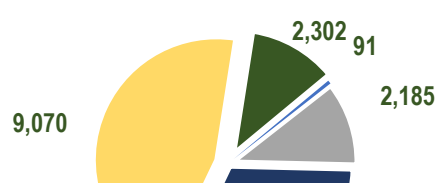
REGION	NUMBER OF JAIL VISITATIONS	NUMBER OF INMATES	NUMBER OF PDLs PROVIDED LEGAL ASSISTANCE
AVD	31	-	350
NCR	0	0	0
CAR	61	360	344
I	187	104	104
II	21	108	59
III	104	2,137	1,873
IV-A	125	1,911	1,628
IV-B	16	48	48
V	56	26	26
VI	51	199	102
VII	50	167	35
VIII	112	344	243
IX	245	1,585	1,403
X	192	819	695
XI	60	2,014	1,927
XII	408	269	92
CARAGA	40	146	141
TOTAL	1,759	10,237	9,070

Region XII has the most number of jails visited for 2017 with **408**. Region III has most number of inmates covered (**2,137**). Region XI has the most number of PDLs provided w legal assistance (**1,927**).

Persons Assisted

There were a total of **19,988** persons assisted which includes **2,185 (10.93%)** for investigation; **6,340 (31.72%)** for legal assistance; **9,070 (45.38%)** Persons Deprived of Liberty; **2,302 (11.52%)** for Financial Assistance; and **91 (0.46%)** for Forensic Services.

Figure 4: PERSONS ASSISTED



**Table 12: NUMBER OF PERSONS ASSISTED
(By Type of Services and by Region)**

REGION	TYPES OF SERVICES				TOTAL
	INVESTIGATION	LEGAL	ASSISTANCE TO PDLs	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	
NCR	221	77	0	4	302
CAR	49	104	344	222	717
I	52	675	104	0	831
II	135	342	59	70	595
III	257	92	1,873	16	2,236
IV-A	473	221	1,628	24	2,339
IV-B	9	7	48	0	64
V	139	633	26	21	816
VI	94	246	102	3	442
VII	134	766	35	7	941
VIII	55	313	243	4	615
IX	211	632	1,403	1,889	3,975
X	124	464	695	7	1,287
XI	153	246	1,927	34	2,360
XII	21	505	92	0	618
CARAGA	58	161	141	1	361
Protection		856	350		1,206
Forensic					91
TOTAL	2,185	6,340	9,070	2,302	19,988

In addition, the ESCR Center of the Commission assisted 84 individuals who sought its advice and assistance on the protection and promotion of their respective rights.

Forensic Services

Out of the 91 Forensic Services provided by the CHR, **51** are Medico-Physical, **27** Exhumation/Autopsy, and **13** are Medical Examinations.

Table 13: Forensic Services

Forensic Services	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Medico-Physical	9	7	25	10	51
Exhumation/ Autopsy	5	4	6	12	27
Medical Examination	0	2	9	2	13
Total	14	13	40	24	91

CHR Clearances and Certifications

At the central and regional levels, the Commission issued a total of **1,627** clearances and certificates of no pending human rights violation to police and military personnel seeking promotion or applying for scholarships and further studies abroad.

About **463** clearances were issued to members of the police force, **994** to the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and **124** to other civil servants. As for certifications, **33** were issued to the police force, **11** to the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and **2** to other civil servants.

The following are some of the cases that have been resolved by the Commission:

- **Densing Case - Violation on the Right to Life**

On July 27, 2016, Bener Densing was shot four (4) times on the different parts of his body that caused his death. The shooting accident happened inside his house and perpetrated by members of the Philippine National Police. The involved police officers, however, deny any violation of the right to life of Densing. In fact, they insisted that the incident was a result of a buy-bust operation conducted along Burgos Street and on the alleged premise that there was an element of “nanlaban.” It was further alleged that Densing was fired upon only to subdue him.

After a careful evaluation of the evidence gathered, CHR gave more credence to the statement of the witnesses as against the contention of the respondents. Their statement that Densing was shot and killed inside his house was corroborated by the SOCO report that clearly showed that the victim was recovered inside his house.

Respondent police officers failed to respect and protect the dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of Densing. They are found to be liable for human rights violations.

Recommendation / Action: On March 30, 2017, CHR NCR Regional Office recommended the forwarding of the case to the Office of the Ombudsman for the filing of appropriate criminal and administrative charges against respondent police officers. In addition to this, financial assistance was to be granted to the heirs of Densing.

- **Barros Case – Arbitrary Deprivation of Life (Extra-Judicial Killing)**

This is a motu proprio investigation conducted by the Commission on Human Rights – Region X on the killing of Benildo Barros. Barros was killed inside his room at his farmhouse in Sta. Cruz, Claveria, Misamis Oriental. The respondents of this case are officers from the PDEA – Northern Mindanao and the Claveria Municipal Police Station.

From the records of the case, it is well-established that Barros was a known drug user. In fact, he was in the watchlist of the Claveria Police Station as a pusher and user. Though the PDEA operation was cloaked with validity, being an implementation of a validly-issued search warrant for violation of RA 9165, still, there were lapses in the procedural requirements during the service of the warrant. The reglementary procedures under the Revised Philippine National Police Operational Procedures (Rule 14.6) and in Rule 128 (Sec. 8) of the Rules of Court were violated by the respondents. Thus, the PDEA Agents and police officers cannot hide behind the presumption of regularity in the performance of their official functions.

In sum, the killing of the victim is tantamount to an extrajudicial killing committed by law enforcement agents without due process and constitutes as a human rights violation. However, considering that the wife of the victim opted to file both the criminal and administrative cases on her own, assisted by her lawyers, CHR has no other option but to recommend for the closure of the case.

Recommendation / Action: On the part of CHR, the investigation of the case was closed and terminated. The complainant, on the other hand, filed her complaint against the PDEA – 10 members before the Office of the Ombudsman last February 27, 2017.

- **Corver Case – Arbitrary Deprivation of Life (Extra-Judicial Killing)**

This is a motu proprio investigation conducted by the CARAGA Regional Office on the killing of Rodrick “JeckJeck” Corver on August 7, 2016 at Brgy. San Agustin, Talacogon, Agusan del Sur.

Though not involved in illegal drugs or not included in the watchlist, JeckJeck already surrendered twice before the Talacogon Municipal Police Station. Few weeks after his second surrender, JeckJeck met his dreadful fate.

Whether it is the complainant’s version or the spot report that is gauge against the elements of extra-judicial killing, both fit the framework for such as there is arbitrariness in the killing of JeckJeck, as exhibited by the assailant’s intention to kill, and JeckJeck’s life was taken without due process by state agents (police officers). While it can be argued that the buy-bust operation is a legitimate operation, however, the legitimacy of the operation is in doubt due to the death of the victim.

Recommendation / Action: On March 20, 2017, CHR CARAGA Regional Office recommended the endorsement / referral of the case to the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Officers (MOLEO). Financial

assistance was also recommended to be awarded to the immediate heirs of the victim. This case been categorized as closed and terminated.

- **Cedeño Case – Violation of the Right to Life**

In the evening of July 23, 2016, police officers, without warrant or having been allowed entry thereto burst into the house of Jerald Cedeño. They searched his bedroom and found nothing illegal. Thereafter, Jerald was brought outside of his house and shot to death.

The witnesses claim that Jerald was not armed as he has just taken a bath when he was accosted by the police officers. They insisted that Jerald did not even attempt to raise a hand against the respondents. The police officers, on the other hand, proceeded to the house of Jerald to conduct policing or to enforce a law which was reported to have been violated by the latter.

Undeniably, Jerald was already under police custody when he was shot to death. Jerald had no single opportunity to reach for a weapon as he was guarded by the respondents from the time he came out of the bathroom up to the time he was shot outside his house. In addition, there is positive and corroborated assertion from the complainant and her witness that the gun confiscated by the police officers was placed beside Jerald's body while respondents were waiting for the SOCO representatives to arrive. All premises considered there appears substantial proof that Jerald was arbitrarily deprived of his basic and fundamental right to life.

Recommendation / Action: CHR Regional Office VII recommended the monitoring of the case personally filed by the complainant before the Office of the Ombudsman until the same is disposed with finality. The case was further recommended to be elevated to the CHR-Field Operations Office for the grant of financial assistance to the bereaved family of Jerald Cedeño.

- **Macaundar Case – Arbitrary Deprivation of Right to Life**

On July 13, 2016, members of the PDEA Region 2 office raided the house of Monsay "Mon" Macaundar which resulted in his death. According to PDEA Region 2, what took place was a buy-bust operation and the shooting of Mon was done in self-defense. But according to the witnesses for the victim, Mon did not have any gun in his possession at the time he was shot. In fact, his guns were found and seized inside his room/

Although the victim is an alleged drug pusher, still he is a human being. Mon cannot be stripped of his rights to be treated humanely and with dignity. PDEA agents thrust their lives in unimaginable zones of peril. Yet, resort to wanton violence is never justified when their duty could be performed otherwise. A "shoot first, think later" disposition occupies no decent place in a civilized society. Never has homicide or murder been a function of law enforcement.

Recommendation / Action: The records of this case show that administrative and criminal complaints were already filed before the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon. On January 9, 2017, CHR Region Office II recommended the case closed and terminated subject to monitoring. It was further recommended that the complainant be granted financial assistance.

- **Bicera and Vilorio Case – Arbitrary Deprivation of Life**

On the evening of July 26, 2016 elements of the Lasam Cagayan Police were conducting a checkpoint at Barangay San Pedro, Lasam, Cagayan when two male riding astride on a single motorcycle ignored the established checkpoint and instead fired at the police officers manning the same and fled, a hot pursuit chase ensued until the two were neutralized after an exchange of gunfire. The complainants, on the other hand, are in disbelief and totally in disagreement with the police officers. They anchor their theory on the fact that it was dark at the place where the incident took place and therefore it is highly improbable that their gunshot wounds were in the head. The autopsy report implies that the victims were on a kneeling or sitting position when they were shot. They also took note of some injuries in the finger or other parts of the body of the deceased concluding therefore that they were tortured.

Given the peculiar circumstances surrounding the death of the victims as to time and place and the manner by which they were shot give rise to a doubt as to the veracity of the PNP Post Operation report. To all sundry, the cloud of doubt is sufficient to engender a reasonable conclusion that in all probability a human right violation could have been committed.

Recommendation / Action: The records of this case show that cases were already filed by the complainant against the respondents in the proper forum. CHR Region 2 recommended the monitoring of the cases filed by the complainants and the grant of financial assistance to the legal heirs of Bicera and Vilorio.

- **Mascarinas-Green Case – Arbitrary Deprivation of Life**

On February 15, 2017, Atty. Mia Mascarinas-Green, an environmental lawyer, was gunned down by several men. The victim was in the company of her three (3) children and their nanny. As per the statement of the nanny, they were on their way home when she noticed a man on a motorcycle drove past them and suddenly stopped, blocking their path. When the victim blew the horn of the car, the witness heard successive gunshots and saw the victim was hit. The gunman fled on board the motorcycle together with a blue back-up vehicle.

The gunman was later on positively identified as the son-in-law of the victim's client. There was denial of any involvement in the shooting of the victim premised on an alibi that the gunman was in Davao City at the time of the killing. The other respondent alleged an alibi that he too was at the Alona Embrace Resort at the time of the incident. Both respondents presented CCTV footages to back-up their claims.

In the course of the investigation by the CHR, it was discovered that the victim received several death threats in relation to a civil case she was handling regarding the Alona Embrace Resort in Panglao, Bohol.

After reviewing the documents of the case, there is sufficient evidence to hold the respondents liable for human rights violation. The killing of the victim was attended by the aggravating circumstances of treachery and abuse of strength. It was also found out that there was a strong intention to kill the victim. The gun shots aimed at the head and neck were made to ensure the victim's death. The defense of denial and alibi presented by the respondents were weak and given little credit. They gave no proof as to the authenticity and genuineness of the CCTV footages.

Recommendation / Action: Since a case was already filed against the respondents, it was recommended that the case be closely monitored until it is resolved with finality. Financial assistance was also extended to the heirs of the victim.

Extra Judicial Killings (EJKs) became a popular human rights concern in the year 2017 because of the war on drugs of the present administration. Thus, the Commission started its investigation in the following controversial alleged EJKs:

- **Killing of 17-year-old Kian De Los Santos- Alleged EJK Drug-Related Killing**

The victim is Kian De Los Santos, 17 years old, Grade 11 Student, and a resident of 283 Libis Baesa, Barangay 160, Caloocan City while respondents are policemen assigned at Police Community Precinct 7, Caloocan City Police Station Drugs Enforcement Unit.

Police Version of the incident

Based on the police spot report of Caloocan City Police Station, it was discussed that on August 16, 2017, the personnel of PCP-7 Drug Enforcement unit) others were conducting One Time Big Time Operation (Oplan Galugad) in the area. When Kian Delos Santos noticed the presence of the approaching police officers, he drew his firearm and directly shot toward the lawmen but missed, prompting one of the policemen to returned fire in order to prevent and repel the unlawful aggression, thereby hitting Kian on his body that resulted on his instantaneous death. The personnel of CLO NPD processed the crime scene and recovered four (4) fired cartridge cases, one (1) caliber .45 with magazine and two (2) small transparent plastic sachet containing white crystalline substance suspected to be shabu.

CHR Investigation Office Actions on the Incident

Brgy. Captain confirmed that the deceased was never listed in their drug watch list nor had a derogatory record in the barangay. They also showed and provided the team with the CCTV footage of the victim Kian with the alleged members of Caloocan City

Police Station. As shown in the CCTV, while traversing the Basketball Court in the area, victim Kian was in between two persons who dragged him while his head was covered. The Incident was recorded at 8:24 in the evening of August 16, 2017 in the CCTV footage.

Autopsy examinations on the cadaver of Kian both by the PNP SOCO and PAO indicated further that he was in the kneeling position or positioned below his assailants. The gunshots were fired 'near –contact' range or only centimeters away from him. Clearly, minor Kian Delos Santos, was a victim of human rights violations committed by the 3 policemen, when they arbitrarily and deliberately took his life without the benefit of due process. Assuming that Kian was a drug-user or pusher, he should be taken before the bar of justice. In this case, he was executed by respondents.

Case status: Final Investigation Report completed/submitted

Recommendation/Action:

- A. The monitoring of the criminal cases filed against respondents-policemen with the DOJ as well as the administrative case for grave misconduct with the internal Affairs service (IAS), PNP. Monitor also the ongoing preliminary investigation being conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman.*
- B. Provide immediate financial assistance to the family of Kian Delos Santos despite the lack of formal complaint.*
- C. Refer this final Investigation Report and attached gathered facts and documents to the Office of the Ombudsman for their consolidation; and*
- D. The docketing and urgent final resolution of these cases.*

- **Killing of Carl Angelo Arnaiz- Alleged EJK Drug-Related Killing**

According to victim's mother, Carl went missing on August 18, 2017. He was last seen riding a tricycle with Reynaldo "Kulot" De Guzman, 14 yrs old at around 12 AM. On August 28, 2017, Mrs. Arnaiz received a text from her daughter's husband that Carl's body was at Ezekiel Funeral Homes, Caloocan City. According to the report of the Caloocan City PS, Carl rode a taxi driven by Tomas Marleo T. Bagcal to 5th Ave., in the city. Reaching C-3 Rd., Brgy. 28, Carl drew a gun and declared a robbery. He took Bagcal's wallet and got off the taxi after hitting the driver. Bagcal sought help patrolling policemen who rushed to the place of robbery. There, they found Carl. As the policemen were identifying themselves as law enforcers, Carl fired two shots at them. The police returned fire, killing him.

Case status: Under Investigation

- **Killing of Reynaldo De Guzman alias "Kulot" - Alleged EJK Drug-Related Killing**

Reynaldo De Guzman alias "Kulot", 14 years old, grade five pupil at Maybunga Pasig Elementary School and a resident of Chico Street, Anakpawis 2, Barangay San Andres,

Cainta, Rizal was declared missing since August 17, 2017 after he was seen allegedly in the company of Carl Angelo Arnaiz. On August 18, 2017, Carl Angelo Arnaiz was killed in an alleged encounter with the police operatives.

On September 6, 2017, a body was found in a funeral parlor in Gapan, Nueva Ecija and was believed to be Kulot's dead body. According to Kulot's parents, they positively identified the body of their son thru the distinguishing marks on his body like the big wart on the left lower knee and the healed surgical stitches on his left upper neck. Based on the statement of Lina de Guzman, she alleged that it was on August 17, 2017 when she last saw her son in the basketball court which was also near Carl Angelo Arnaiz house. After noticing that her son Kulot did not come home, they searched and reported him missing to the Cainta Police Station and the DSWD until it was found in a funeral parlor in Gapan, Nueva Ecija. At about 12 midnight, the Forensic team of CHR arrived at the funeral homes and they coordinated with the NBI and PNP on its intention to conduct its own autopsy.

An employee of the funeral homes disclosed that he was the one who retrieved the cadaver wrapped with tape. Several stab wounds were also noticed on the body and an unmistakable smell of gasoline reeked from the body. At the crime scene which was located along Mahipon Highway, Gapan City, an ocular inspection was made. A witness stated on September 4, 2017 around 11: 50 pm that she was suddenly awakened by a thud with a splash but ignored it as she was used to the sound of people frequently throwing garbage at the creek near her house. Afterwhich, a speeding vehicle was heard by her but did not bother to look out. It was only on the following day of September 5, 2017 around 12 noon that she noticed a human body floating on the creek. The cadaver was retrieved and was sent to Dariz Funeral Homes. Along Maharlika Highway corner, it was observed that there was a CCTV camera, however when inquire for the owner, it was learned that it was owned by a private citizen.

Case status: Under Investigation

Recommendation / Action:

- 1. Coordinate with the owner of the CCTV camera. If possible, secure a copy of the same;*
- 2. Locate possible witness on the case; and*
- 3. Monitor actions taken by concerned government agencies.*

- **Discovery of a Secret Detention Cell in Raxabago Police Station**

An information was relayed to the CHR by a concerned citizen regarding the existence of a secret detention cell inside Raxabago Police Station in Manila. On April 27, 2017

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) filed on May 10, 2017 before the Office of the Ombudsman criminal and administrative charges against the police officers of the Raxabago Police Station. The cases of Arbitrary Detention, Grave Threats, Delay in the Delivery of Detained Persons, Grave Coercion, Robbery/Extortion, Violation of Republic Act no. 9745, Maltreatment of Prisoners, and Violation of the 2013, Revised PNP Operational Procedures, are docketed as OMB- P-C-17-0193. The cases of Grave Misconduct and Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service are docketed as OMB –P-A 17-0211.

The CHR received an order dated July 13, 2017 issued by the Office of the Ombudsman directing the police respondents to submit their Counter-Affidavit. At present, the said cases are still subject for preliminary investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman. The Commission monitored the human rights situation and provided counselling services to the two (2) male detainees in Manila City Jail Male Dormitory on June 8, August 29 and October 27, 2017.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION SERVICES

Our work in the Commission is cut out for us as the rising tide of populist politics threatens to undermine the principle of human rights in the country. Our goal then is to create a culture in which the society lives and breathes human rights and understands the international and domestic frameworks in which the Commission works in.

Promoting human rights is a core function of NHRIs as well as a basic attribute of the Paris Principles. Human rights capacity building services of the Commission include all forms of human rights education and promotion activities like seminars, trainings, and lectures as well as mainstreaming of human rights based approach in government and civil society. This also covers the development of human rights training modules, teaching exemplars, education facilitators' manual to include resource pool for human rights and the international humanitarian law (IHL). Human rights information campaign activities are also included with the use of multi-media and conduct of community-based programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2017

Education and Training

A total of **1,411** information and education activities were conducted nationwide. This covers **315** seminars/trainings, **606** lectures/talks, **167** orientations and **323** other information dissemination activities covering various topics on human rights. Region X and XI conducted the most number of Information and Education Activities with **206** (14.60%) and **183** (12.97%) accomplishments, respectively.

**Table 14: INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
(By Region and by Activity)**

REGION	SEMINARS / TRAININGS ATTENDED	LECTURES / TALKS	ORIENTATION	OTHER INFORMA TION	TOTAL
HREPO	8	12	5	2	27
NCR	1	2	2	2	7
CAR	13	17	18	8	56
I	39	99	16	21	175
II	52	12	12	30	106
III	23	17	17	14	71
IV-A	15	33	40	9	97
IV-B	0	0	1	0	1
V	35	11	13	23	82
VI	0	0	0	10	10
VII	27	13	8	24	72
VIII	21	9	0	2	32
IX	21	38	7	79	145
X	21	92	10	83	206
XI	15	168	0	0	183
XII	4	46	13	12	75
CARAGA	20	37	5	4	66
TOTAL	315	606	167	323	1,411

A total of **120,828** participants attended these information and education activities. These participants mostly came from the following sectors: PNP, Military, NGA, LGU, PDL and Students from the Academe.

Likewise, the Commission conducted various information and education activities that give emphasis to the Youth, Children, Adult and Senior Citizens.

Celebratory Events

Moreover, a total of **516** celebratory/ promotional events were held nationwide with a total of **58,997** participants. These activities were held to celebrate the milestones of human rights and to further promote national consciousness on human rights. These events were celebrated together with partners from Government Offices (GOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Some of the milestone events that have been celebrated by the Commission are the following; *Women's Month, 30th Anniversary of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, EDSA Anniversary Commemoration, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia*, among others.

IEC Materials Developed

To further the reach of human rights messages, the Commission produced various information, education and campaign materials aimed at providing information on the programs, activities, and causes the Commission supports.

For 2017, seven (7) printed materials were produced and disseminated composed of the following: Brochure on CHR as Gender Ombud; Notebook on Anti-Bullying; and Compilation of Position Papers, Advisories and Resolutions on the Death Penalty; Agency Brochure, Citizen's Charter, Human Rights Calendar.

Aside from printed IEC materials, the Commission strives to widen the reach of human rights-related information through online means. This is done through regular posting of social media cards that aim to educate the people on basic human rights concepts, and clarify issues confronting the human rights community and the CHR. The social media posts translate CHR press statements, human rights concepts and mechanisms into digestible and visually appealing information materials. Thus, **361** Social Media Cards and Infographics; **9** Social Media Banners; and **37** videos were produced for the year.

In terms of amplifying the Commission's social media presence, the official facebook page reached an average of 188, 870 people every day. In three months, the page gained and additional 19,200 likers- 1 138. 78% increase from the previous quarter. Maximizing the potential of social media in amplifying the Commission's presence online, the SCD committed to have a 20% increase in the number of social media followers on CHR social media accounts. The official CHR Facebook page reached 36,293 page likes in 2017 from 3,186 from the previous year (1,139.14% increase); and 1,817 followers on Twitter from 4 in 2016 (45,425% increase).

Press Statements

For 2017, The Commission issued a total of **55 press statements and releases** or **366.67%** of its target on pressing human rights and CHR issues. The regular issuance of the Commission's stance on various human rights concerns resulted to increased visibility and exposure in print, broadcast, and digital media. These press statements/releases played an important role in promoting Human Rights and addressing human rights issues/concerns to the government. It is issued to the general public, through the media, to raise public awareness and mold public opinion on specific human rights issues.

Table 15: Press Statements

PRESS STATEMENTS RELEASED	
DATE	TITLES
16 January	CHR welcomes EO 12 on Zero Unmet Need and Strict Implementation of RPRH Law
26 January	CHR Calls for the Investigation into the Abduction and Killing of Jee Ick Joo

PRESS STATEMENTS RELEASED	
DATE	TITLES
31 January	CHR Statement on the Suspension of the Anti-Drug Campaign
16 February	CHR Statement on the Court of Appeal's Issuance of Permanent Protection to 'Oplan Tokhang' Victims
21 February	CHR Refutes Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar's Pronouncement that the CHR Cleared President Duterte
02 March	CHR Statement on the Passing of House Bill No. 4727 (Reimposition of the Death Penalty) on Second Reading
03 March	CHR Statement on the Resumption of Oplan Tokhang
07 March	CHR Remains Firm Against the Reimposition of the Death Penalty
20 March	CHR to investigate Lascañas allegations
23 March	Statement of the CHR on the passing of former Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani
03 April	Press Release of the CHR on the Statement of Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella on Extra-Judicial Killing addressed to the European Union
30 April	CHR Chair Chito Gascon's response to PNP Chief Bato de la Rosa's statement on the Manila Police District Station 1's secret jail
04 May	Statement on the World Press Freedom Day
04 May	CHR: Senator's CA comment disrespect, disregard and discriminate women
10 May	Statement of Commissioner Karen S. Gomez-Dumpit on the filing of criminal and administrative cases by the Commission on Human Rights before the Ombudsman against Manila Police District-Raxabago Police Station 1 personnel over its secret detention cell.
19 May	CHR urges PHL gov't: address human rights situation on the ground
19 May	Statement of CHR Commissioner Gomez Dumpit on the Fact-Finding Report of the RIAS-NCR concerning MPD Raxabago S1's Alleged Secret Detention Cell
24 May	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao
27 May	Statement of the CHR on President Rodrigo Duterte's threat to behead human rights advocates
28 May	Statement of the CHR on the President's rape joke and current human rights situation in Marawi City
29 May	Statement of the CHR on the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act
31 May	CHR conducts Nat'l Inquiry on the situation of IPs
02 June	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the Department of Education's hiring of new teachers
10 June	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of airstrikes and the humanitarian condition in Marawi City
14 June	Statement of CHR in honor of our fallen troops and condemnation against the ongoing atrocities perpetrated by Maute Group
27 June	CHR pushes for torture prevention measures in PHL

PRESS STATEMENTS RELEASED	
DATE	TITLES
19 July	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on President Rodrigo Duterte's 'Miss Universe' rape joke
22 July	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights to the Joint Session of the Congress on the Extension on Martial Law
27 July	Statement of Chairperson Chito Gascon on his tenure as head of the Commission on Human Rights
29 July	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on calls for its abolition
09 August	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the passage of the Anti-Hospital Deposit Law
11 August	Bombing of lumad schools against int'l humanitarian law – CHR
13 August	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the government's measures in pursuing personalities involved in illegal drugs
17 August	CHR reiterates stance on the death penalty in End Crime, Not Life Public Forum
20 August	CHR expresses alarm over high number of deaths, commences motu proprio investigations
24 August	CHR calls for review of house-to-house drug testing policy, stresses need to protect rights of all
24 August	Statement of the CHR on the President's commitment to bring justice to Kian Loyd delos Santos's death
29 August	CHR, PNP agree on more transparent reporting of deaths related to gov't drug campaign
31 August	CHR condemns Abu Sayyaf attack, calls for the protection of civilians
31 August	HR concerned over President Duterte's remarks against UN special rapporteur, human rights defenders
02 September	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the passage of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act
06 September	CHR demands justice for the death of Kian, Carl
12 September	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the PHP 1,000 budget allocation of the House of Representatives for the CHR
15 September	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the rising numbers of youth killings
20 September	CHR unveils Diokno Memorial; calls for the defense of human rights
04 October	Statement of the CHR calling the Philippine gov't to address continuing human rights abuses in the country
07 October	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the passage of the Universal Health Coverage Bill
08 October	Statement of the CHR on the SWS survey on people's perception of the EJK situation in the country
09 October	Statement of the CHR calling for the strengthening of our justice system in addressing the culture of impunity in the PH
16 October	CHR hopeful with PDEA's lead in the drug campaign

PRESS STATEMENTS RELEASED	
DATE	TITLES
04 December	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on PDEA's public disclosure of a drug suspect's HIV status
05 December	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on FDA registration of contraceptive products and full implementation of RH Law
15 December	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the further extension of Martial Law in Mindanao until December 2018
22 December	Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the allegations of food blockade in Lianga, Surigao del Sur
24 December	Mensahe ng Commission on Human Rights ngayong Kapaskuhan

HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY SERVICES

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are empowered to advise the government on human rights policies for the promotion and protection of human rights. This advisory power entails the Commission to evaluate and assess governmental policies, legislations, actions, reforms, and decisions that have human rights implications. To fulfill this, the Commission provides advice, guidance and direction using human rights standards, norms and principles found in international and national human rights instruments, laws and statutes as enshrined in the Paris Principles.

On several occasions, the views and recommendations of the Commission were sought or offered on governmental actions and policy decisions, specifically the executive, involving human rights.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2017

The Commission issued various human rights policy issuances to the government agencies and institutions on its stand on national as well as local issues and concerns impacting on human rights.

Table 16: Human Rights Advisories

HR Advisories	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
National HR Advisories		
1. Human Rights Standards on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) In the Marawi City Crisis (CHR A2017-001)	June 27, 2017	<p>Policy Advisory on the Human Rights Standards of IDPs in the Marawi City Crisis to the Commission En Banc.</p> <p>The Commission recognize the myriad factors that affect civilians displaced by the</p>

HR Advisories	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		conflict in Marawi City, the complex protection issues faced by the displaced persons; and the need to strengthen government and non-government efforts in protecting IDPs by adopting a rights-based approach to support the protection and durable solutions of IDPs in this context.
2. Advisory on the Denunciation and Withdrawal of the Death Penalty (CHR A2017-002)	July 31, 2017	The Commission issues this Advisory to guide the Philippine Government on its initiatives to re-impose capital punishment. The Commission takes this opportunity to emphatically reiterate that the Philippines is a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol. Having ratified the ICCPR and the Second Optional Protocol, under which the Philippines expressly undertook to abolish the death penalty, the Philippines must adhere to its commitment or invite unwelcome consequences in the long run. Considering that the Second Optional Protocol and its very nature does not allow for its withdrawal, to denounce or withdraw from the treaty is not and should not be an option for the government.
3. CHRP advisory on the right to education of persons with disabilities (CHR A2017-003)	December 21, 2017	The Commission strongly urges different stakeholders, the disability rights sector, members of the academe, government agencies, educational institutions and civil society. To join dialogues and educational campaign advancing the cause of persons with disabilities, to exert further efforts to mainstream education on disability rights, and to take necessary steps towards the elimination of existing barriers that deprive persons with disabilities from attaining. Inclusive education in the country.;
4. Human Rights Advisory on the "Drop Box" System in Reporting Crimes (CHR A 2017-004)	December 21, 2017	The CHR calls upon the DILG, LGUs, the PNP and all other law enforcement agencies to discontinue the use of drop boxes as a mode of collecting information from the community on personalities suspected of being involved in nefarious and illegal

HR Advisories	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		activities until such time that stringent measures are put in place to address the dangers posed by the system to the human rights. The use of the “drop box system” absent protocols, rules of procedures, and guidelines on collecting, storing, verifying and sharing information threatens the right to privacy, presumption of innocence, due process and other civil and political rights of people.
5. Human Rights Advisory on the DILG Proposal to Use Stickers to Identify Drug Free Homes (CHR A2017-005)	December 21, 2017	The Commission believes that there are other means to dissuade the public against drug use and abuse. Reducing the demand for drugs necessarily reduces the supply. However, reduction of illegal drug use or abuse involves multifarious factors that need to be taken into consideration. It is best to step back and contemplate on these deep causing factors and the current nature and extent of drug use using all c available information / policy making around the world is becomingly increasingly evidence based. The same should apply to the country’s current drug policy.
Regional HR Advisories		
6. Region I Advisory on the exercise of visitorial powers of the commission of human rights	October 9 , 2017	This advisory is being issued in order to address the concern on whether or not the Commission on Human Rights can validly exercise visitorial powers over jails, prisons, or detention facilities. Conformably with the constitutionally mandated function of the CHR, government agencies, such as the DILG, DOJ, DND, AFP and PNP had manifested to support the CHR and affirmed their responsibility to uphold justice and protect the human rights of the people. Accordingly, on May 16, 1998, said government agencies and the CHR issued a Joint Declaration of Undertaking on the CHR Guidelines on Visitation and the Conduct of Investigation, Arrest, Detention and related operations and the 1991 MOA on the Procedures in the Release from Custody of Detainees or Accused Persons.

HR Advisories	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
<p>7. Region III</p> <p>Regional human rights advisory-CHR RO3 adv-2017-081-001 on equal protection clause concerning the mandatory identification system for Muslims</p>	<p>August 11, 2017</p>	<p>The Philippines through its 1987 Constitution, guarantees the equal protection of the laws for its people. The constitution also pledges that protection of the dignity of Filipinos is given the highest priority by means of reduction of “social, economic, and political inequalities.” It is with these premises that singling out Muslims as means of securing the community is equal to saying that their beliefs and identities are grounds for them to be separated from the mainstream society. This social stigma associated with Islam would only widen the gap between Muslims and Christian. Discrimination against our Muslim brothers and sisters cannot be justified for the sole reason of public security nor our fear associated with the believers of Islam be enough in convicting them without the due process of the law. Thus, they are deprived of their natural right to live peacefully and meaningfully.</p>
<p>8. Region IX</p> <p>Advisory on the Human rights of Zamboanga City IDPs</p>	<p>October 2, 2017</p>	<p>Nearly four (4) years ago after the 2013 Zamboanga Siege, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Zamboanga are yet to return to their places of origin. Although a relative number of the displaced community already returned and some relocated, there are still several of them who stay at different Transitory Sites. The following are the prevailing issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exclusion and/ or Erroneous Inclusion of Names in the Official Master List 2. Non Compliance with the Provisions of the Z3R Code of Policies and its Implementing Rules and Regulations 3. The Waiver and the Certification issued by the NHA 4. Selling of Awarded Housing Units 5. Local Inter-Agency Committee

HR Advisories	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		<p>6. Lack of Involvement by the Local Legislative officers</p> <p>Thus, The Commission issued the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Zamboanga City Prosecutor Responders must be made to revisit the provisions of the Z3R Code of Policies B. Guidelines must be formulated to set the partnership and deliberation of proceedings of Local Inter Agency Committees C. Members of the Local Legislative Body, Upon its Initiative or thru the Committee on human right should be acquainted with the issues confronted by the Zamboanga City IDPS
<p>9. Region IX</p> <p>Human Rights Advisory re: Pagadian City Ordinance No. 2017-378 (The Implementation of A Curfew within the Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Pagadian and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof</p>	December 29, 2017	<p>The imposition of a curfew on account of the proclamation of Martial Law finds no Constitutional moorings. The Commission urges the City of Government of Pagadian to revisit enactment of ordinance No. 2017-378 being inconsistent with International Human Rights Instruments and Constitutional tenets. Moreover, its undeniable negative effects to the City far outweigh the perceived benefits derived from such sweeping regulation.</p>
<p>10. Region X - Advisory given to the Oro Kasanag Awards Steering Committee</p>	October 3, 2017	<p>In view of the membership of the Commission on Human Rights -10 to the Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee (RJJWC), the CHR -10 representative was given an avenue to provide valuable input to the Committee. In a meeting of the RJJWC conducted last 1-2 December 2016, the CHR 10 representation informed the Committee members regarding a finding during a jail monitoring conducted by the office.</p>
<p>11. Region X - Advisory given to the Regional Juvenile Justice Welfare Council (RJJWC)</p>		<p>In one of the monitoring visits to the Camiguin Provincial detention and Rehabilitation Center (PDRC). During the 3RD quarter of the year, the CHR 10 came to</p>

HR Advisories	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		know of the fact that the provincial Government was in the process of building temporary facility for the children and the youth. The said facility was being built as the second story of the Camiguin PDRC.
12. Region X - Advisory on the Celebration of the Women's Month, 2017	February 29, 2017	The CHR, as the PCWs partner in the promotion and protection of gender equality and women's empowerment and as the designated gender Ombud by the Magna Carta of Women, encourages all government agencies to organize their own activities and other initiatives that contribute to the above objectives. Any cost incurred for the activities will be attributed to the concerned agencies GAD budget.
13. CARAGA - Human Rights Advisory on the declaration of Martial Law	June 5, 2017	The Commission reiterates the call for respect for human rights. The declaration of Martial Law did not suspend the operation of the Constitution. In effect, the people do not lose their basic rights enumerated therein. In the same manner, the State is under obligation to respect, protect and fulfill human rights.
14. CARAGA - Human Rights Policy Advisory In Re: SP Ordinance No. 14-186-2017 known as "The Butuan City Anti-Truancy Ordinance"	August 11, 2017	In engaging with its partners, the CHR always adhere to its Child Protection Policy (CPC) of ensuring that children are protected in every programs, projects and activities that involves them. In this light, the CHR recommends that the PNP procedure in handling Children at Risk (CAR) should be incorporated in the enforcement of the ordinance. Creating a different procedure poses a possibility of conflict as to what procedure shall govern in case of violation and the PNP comes in contact with the child.
15. CARAGA - Advisory on the home-based internally displaced persons (IDPS) in CARAGA Region	December 20, 2017	The Commission issues this human rights advisory, for the inclusion of the CARAGA sojourned home-based IDPs in Bangon Marawi. Their specific needs and human rights concerns should not be left out, but rather be included in all stages of the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction

HR Advisories	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		<p>of Marawi City. Despite their distance from Marawi City, they ought to be included in the entire rehabilitation process.</p> <p>The Commissions call on the protection cluster of the emergency response framework to observe the guidelines, principles, and processes echoed in this advisory and do everything within the full extent of its power to address the plight of IDPs who are sojourn in CARAGA region.</p>
16. CAR - Human Rights Advisory Re: The Right to Conjugal Visit of both Men and Women Inmates (Uplifting the Family Relations of Spouses Deprived of Liberty)	July 2017	<p>The Commission on Human Rights, as an independent monitor of Government compliance with its international obligations on human rights, sets forth the following recommendations for the greater promotion and respect of the rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty.</p> <p>1.For the legislative body/Congress to enact national laws, policies and regulations that govern the rights of persons deprived of liberty so that they adequately protect and promote the human rights of men and women inmates to health, family and reproduction by enacting law that allow conjugal visitations in jail/ detention facilities and to allocate funds for the creation of conjugal rooms in jails and detention facilities.</p> <p>2.For the BJMP to revisit its existing policy on conjugal visits to allow and/ or grant female PDLs the same conjugal privileges allowed to male PDLs.</p>

Table 17: Position Papers

HR Position Papers	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
1. Position Paper on the CESCR DRAFT General Comment on ICESCR Obligations and Business Activities	January 4, 2017	The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines submits this position paper that provides its views and inputs to the draft General Comment on state obligations under the International Covenant on

HR Position Papers	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of business. The draft general comment puts emphasis on clarifying the duties of the State Party under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) to ensure that the activities of business contribute to and do not impede the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.
2. Position Paper on Senate Bill No. 14: "An Act Adjusting the Amount Involved, Value of Property or Damage on Which a Penalty is Based, and the Fines Under Act No. 3815 as Amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code"	January 23, 2017	The Commission is in full support of the objectives of the bill as it will help in improving the administration of justice in the country. The Commission laud all efforts taken in coming up with an adjusted value of monetary penalties, keeping in mind the constitutional prohibition against cruel and excessive punishment. Also, The Commission agree to the proposed measure as an initial bold step aimed at dispensing justice to all. In the same manner, The CHR maintain that human rights standards and principles should be observed in such initiative if the true purpose of the law, which is justice, is to be served.
3. Position Paper on the Right to Adequate Food Bills	May 29, 2017	The Commission on Human Rights, as the National human rights institution of the country, fully supports the enactment of laws that ensure the enjoyment of all the people of their right to adequate food. The Philippines' obligation to protect and promote the right to adequate food is enshrined in numerous international and domestic laws. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to provide its comments on the proposed measures on the same introduced before the 17th Congress of the House of Representatives, to wit, House Bills Nos. 61, 256, 1645 and 3938, in exercise of its constitutional mandate and as a response to the call of the House Committee on Human Rights.

HR Position Papers	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
4. Position Paper on Mental Health Bills	June 27, 2017	The Commission on Human Rights supports the development of a mental health law which endeavors to provide for a rights-based national mental health system that ensures a community of Filipinos who are mentally healthy, and are able to contribute to the attainment of a better quality of life through access to an integrated, well-planned, effectively organized and efficiently delivered mental health care system that responds to their mental health needs in equity with their physical health needs.
5. Position paper on House Bill No. 4569 or Providing for the Creation of a Council for the Welfare of Older Persons	June 27, 2017	The Commission on Human Rights recognizes and values the contributions and efforts of older persons to society. Theirs are simply not to be disregarded and undermined. They should be treated with utmost respect and protection.
6. Position Paper on the various Anti-Discrimination House Bills	June 27, 2017	The CHR is committed to ensure the primacy of all human rights and to their protection, promotion and fulfilment, on the basis of equality and non-discrimination, in particular for those who are marginalized and vulnerable. It fully supports the enactment of a bill that protects individuals from discrimination and unequal treatment. The passage of a Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Law will mark a significant step in giving flesh and teeth to the constitutional guarantee against discrimination and ensuring equality of rights of all persons.
7. Position Paper on the Anti-Elder Abuse Bill	June 27, 2017	The Commission fully supports the enactment of a bill on anti-elder abuse but prays that such be subjected to a full and detailed review and consideration. While enacting legislation prohibiting elder abuse and providing redress for such acts is a huge leap forward, it is not the only obligation the State has to ensure the right of older persons against abuse. Other measures need to be taken such as

HR Position Papers	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		awareness programs and public campaigns, and provision of adequate social services that balance between integrating older people into society while acknowledging their special needs.
8. Position Paper on the Proposed Amendments to the Family Code	June 27, 2017	The Commission fully supports the amendment of provisions which gives preference to the decisions of the husband over the wife. The proposed amendments are in compliance with the State's obligation under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Additionally, the amendments respond to the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee regarding discriminatory laws. Additionally, the amendments respond to the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee regarding discriminatory laws.
9. Position Paper On House Bill No.13, "An Act Providing for the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and providing Penalties for Violation therefor."	June 27, 2017	<p>While the Commission supports the proposed legislation, it recommends to the Committee on the Welfare of the Children of the House of Representatives to consider the following inputs to further enhance the proposed measure:</p> <p>On Section 2 declaration of Policy, subsection (b) thereof, the Commission recommends its modification to include Paris Principles on the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups.</p>
10. CHR Position Paper on House Bill No. 3023: An Act Ensuring the Free Exercise by the People of their Right to Peaceable Assemble and Petition the Government	July 31, 2017	The Commission reiterates the importance of having an amended version of Batas Pambansa 880 to govern the free exercise of the constitutional right of the people to peaceable assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances. Recent developments have shown disturbing reports of harassment and violence committed against protesters exercising their freedom of association, public assembly and speech. Excessive, aggressive and antagonistic practice of

HR Position Papers	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
		crowd dispersals in the guise of maximum tolerance have sadly been in effect to the detriment of the protesting public, tantamount to curtailing the exercise of their constitutional rights under a democratic government
11. Position Paper on House Bills amending and expanding the Anti-Violence against Women and their children Act of 2004	October 2, 2017	<p>The Commission recognizes the violence through the use of ICT is a valid concern that demands recognition in law. Further, in recognition of the equal rights of all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, the Commission recognizes that victims of physical, mental and sexual violence are not limited to women and children but to persons of diverse SOGIE as well.</p> <p>The Commission also strongly recommends that the proposed measures include appropriations for training and education considering speed by which technology evolves, hence, the need for government personnel tasked to implement the law to keep up with emerging platforms and applications. Such knowledge. Empowerment extends as well to institutions such as the Philippine Commission on women and the IAC-VAWC.</p>
12. Position Paper on the positive discipline bill filed in the senate (Senate Bill 1477)	September 4, 2017	The Commission on Human Rights is in full support of the immediate passage of a legislative measure to protect the rights of children, promote positive discipline, and prohibit all forms of corporal punishment, no matter how light. The Commission being dedicated to protecting the dignity and physical integrity of children recognizes their indispensable role in nation building and advocates the prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment.
13. Position Paper on National Preventive Mechanism Against Torture: An Act Establishing the National	August 14, 2017	The passage of an NPM enabling law is long overdue. The Commission is optimistic that the enactment will be a milestone, in conjunction with other existing

HR Position Papers	Date of Issuance / Release	Details
Preventive Mechanism Against Torture (NCPT)		mechanisms and safeguards, in changing the culture of impunity in the country by punishing perpetrators of torture and other ill-treatment, and ultimately protecting the rights of individuals who are most vulnerable to abuses.
14. Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the proposed charter change	December 21, 2017	The CHR as a constitutional body mandated and committed to protect and promote human rights, calls upon the Congress and all other bodies and personalities wielding the power to initiate and influence the process of charter change, to apply human rights as an ultimate standard. The CHR urges all key players in this grand undertaking, including the public, to always seek a society where all the people can responsibly exercise and claim their human rights and enjoy a sustained quality of life consistent with human dignity
15. Position Paper on the Amendment of Republic Act No. 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harrassment Act of 1995 (House Bills nos. 194, 508, 2591, 2932, 3691, 4822 and 5213)	December 21, 2017	The Commission reiterates that sexual harassment will always be unacceptable regardless of who the perpetrator is as it demeans the dignity and human rights of a person. It creates an intimidating, hostile and humiliating environment adverse to the security and well-being of the victim and leaves detrimental effect that limits the victims freedom and behavior
16. Position Paper on House Bill No. 2953, Prohibiting the Detention of and Mandating the Immediate Release of Cadavers of Muslims from Hospitals and other Facilities and other Similar Facilities	December 21, 2017	The Commission on Human Rights supports the passing of a legislative measure that ensures the rights of Muslim-Filipinos to preserve and practice freely their traditional burial ritual. And that the same is respected and protected in a manner that does not trample on the rights of others and is consistent with existing laws.

Table 18. Human Rights Situation Reports

1. 2017 Human Rights Situation Report on Women, Children, Lesbians. Gays,	21. CHRP report to the questionnaire of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on
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Bisexuals, Transgenders, Queer and Intersex (LGBTIQI), Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), and Indigenous People (IP), issued by CHR Region II.	Ageing for its eighth session in accordance with its decision
2. 2017 Regional Human Rights Situation Report on Women, Children and LGBTIQI (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Queer and Intersex,) the IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), PWDs (Person with Disabilities), PDLs (Persons Deprived of Liberty) Elderly, Migrant Workers, Indigenous People, Human Rights Defenders, issued by CHR Region IX.	22. CHRP report to UNESCO - Promoting Human Rights Training for Media Professionals and Journalists
3. 1st Regional Quarterly Situationer on Internal Displacements Monitoring, issued by Region X.	23. CHRP report to the General Assembly Resolution: Effective Promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
4. 2nd Regional Quarterly Situationer on Internal Displacements Monitoring, issued by CHR Region X.	24. CHRP Report to the Call for Inputs on the "Impact of Fundamentalism and Extremism on the Cultural Rights of Women"
5. Situation Report on Internally Displaced Persons in Marawi City, issued by Region X.	25. CHRP Report to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Persons with Disabilities: The right to Liberty and Security of Persons with Disabilities; and The Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Girls with Disabilities
6. 2017 Indigenous Peoples' Situationer, Bukidnon	26. Thematic Report to the HLPF on the Protection and Realization of Children's Rights in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda
7. Situationer on the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Sta. Elena Evacuation Center, Brgy. Sta Elena, Iligan City	27. Inputs to Questionnaire on National Action Plans to Achieve the Ends of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
8. Situationer on the Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) of Sitio Camansi, Banglay, Misamis Oriental	28. Statement and Presentation at the GANHRI Working Group On Ageing Special Session & The 2nd ASEM Conference On Global Ageing & Human Rights of Older Persons
9. Situation Report in State in Martial Law in Mindanao	29. Inputs to the OHCHR Report on Protecting the Rights of the Child in

	Humanitarian Situations – Human Rights Council Resolution
10. Situation Report on the Internal Displaced Children in Marawi	30. CHRP report on the “Effects of Terrorism on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights
11. IDPs: Locating the Experiences of Women, Children, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People- A Joint Human Rights Monitoring Report of Internally Displaced Persons of the Marawi Crisis	31. CHRP report to the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum: Baseline Paper on the Rights of Older Persons in South East Asia
12. Report on the Human Rights Situation of Internally Displaced Persons in the Marawi City	32. CHRP Submission on Online Violence Against Women
13. Situationer Related to the Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, submitted to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	33. CHRP Report to NGOs and NHRIs on the Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of All Human Rights
14. Human Rights Situation Report: A Review of the National Policies on Transportation, Employment, and Social Welfare in the Context of Disability in the Philippines	34. CHRP Activity Report to the GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights
15. Situation Report of Women with Disabilities in the Philippines	35. CHRP Report to the Survey on Human Rights Defenders Working on the Situation of People on the Move
16. Reproductive Health and Rights in the Philippines, a Situationer	36. CHR Inputs on Cross Border Cooperation Between States
17. CHRP Report on the Promotion, Protection and Enjoyment of Human rights on the Internet	37. Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report in Pre-session in UN Geneva, Switzerland
18. CHRP report "Gender-sensitive Perspective into Extra-judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killing"	38. CHR Report to the 34th session of the Human Rights Council: Statement of CHR of the Philippines for the Biennial High Level Panel: Death Penalty
19. CHRP Report to the High Level Political Forum on Shrinking Civil Society Space	39. CHR Report to the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council- Statement of CHR of the Philippines for the Annual Full Day meeting: Rights of the Child
20. CHRP Report to the Questionnaire on Access to Justice of Persons with Disabilities, relevant to HRC Resolution Concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	

Advocacy on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights

The Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center (GEWHRC) of the Commission conducted and initiated the following seminars: Kuwentuhan On Gender and Climate Change, Are You in or out? Human Rights Based On SOGIESC, a Forum On Access to Justice of LGBTI Persons; Pride March 2017; Advancing Reproductive Rights; Implementing The Philippine Government Human Rights Obligations; Human Rights Education/Awareness Raising; Roundtable Discussion On Legal Referral Mechanisms; Inquiry On the Profiling of The LGBT; Yogyakarta Principles": A Review of the LGBT Rights in the Philippines; A Forum-Workshop on the Effects of Disasters on Rural Women; and Human Rights Education Training on Promoting Access to Reproductive Justice of Deaf, Visual and Mobility Impaired Women and Adolescent Girls. The Commission spearheaded an activity entitled 2017, Purple Action Day as part of the Women's Month Kick-Off Celebration.

Advocacy on Crisis, Conflict and Humanitarian Rights

The Crisis, Conflict and Humanitarian Rights Center (CCHRC) of the CHR organized the follow-up IDP Monitoring Mission to areas affected by the Marawi Crisis on Sept 2017 in Iligan city Balo-I and Pantar, Lanao del Norte, and Saguilaran, Lanao del Sur.

The Center made a Pilot testing of the IP monitoring tool on Samar and Zamboanga and Research Assistance to the Chairperson re: report on Martial Law Implementation: crafting of executive summary that was provided to the joint session of the Congress of the Philippines.

Moreover, as part of interfacing activity with the other offices, the Center provided inputs or comments on various policies, guidelines, concept papers on thematic and sectoral concerns.

Advocacy on Children's Human Rights

The Child Rights Center (CRC) of the CHR conducted and initiated the Rights-Based Summer Learning Sessions for Children. The purpose of this activity was to introduce the children of the CHR employees to Rights-Based Learning Opportunities during their stay at the CHR friendly Space (CFS). The CRC also conducted Consultative Workshops with Organizations Working for Children with Disabilities. The object of the said activity was to gather inputs for Human Rights Situation Report on Children with Disabilities (CWDs) and to documents the existing resources, programs and services that will address their need. The Juvenile Justice Implementers Congress is also one of the activities of the Commission in amplifying the advocacy on Children. The purpose of the activity was to provide a venue for the participants to share and learn good practices, to be challenged and to help address prevailing issues and be inspired by the success stories of former Children in Conflict with the Law. Also, conducted Capacity Building on Rights-Based Research on the Impact of EJK on Women and Children Project which aimed to capacitate the members of the CCHP research team on how to conduct a rights based gender and child sensitive research. The said capacity building was participated by the CHR's Regions Focal Person on Women and Children.

In order to promote youth and child participation, the CRC together with the Children's museum and library, through a project called AGUHON, conducted a whole day children conference filled with workshop, symposiums, forums and group dynamics that will empower the Filipino children and youth by giving them awareness about the issues regarding human rights.

The Commission is an active member of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council and regularly participates in inter agency cooperation.

With the present conjuncture, where respect for human dignity and for human rights are being challenged, marginalized, disregarded and trampled upon, the task to popularize what is human rights in general and child rights in particular is more urgent than ever. This is the reason why the CHR promoted Kabataan, Karapatan, Caravan.

With the Government submitting its fifth and sixth periodic report of its compliance to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on September 19, 2017, the CHR produced its own independent report thru mapping the services provided by the national government agencies in furtherance of the said treaty. While there are ample cutting edge laws on children in the country, several mechanisms on the promotion and protection of their rights, and numerous initiatives to address their concerns, overwhelming issues concerning them are still persistently thriving.

Advocacy on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Center (ESCRC) of the CHR contributed to the development of the CHR's monitoring guide to advocate for ESCR (Housing, Health, Education, Food and Water) and consolidated reports on human rights situation of Indigenous Peoples in Philippines resulting from the launching and conduct of the National Inquiry on this subject. Moreover, the ESCR has reached out to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) through the new ESCR tools. PWDs have been active participants and resource persons during the development of the said tools that strike a balanced approach for both quantitative and qualitative monitoring and reporting of the ESCR situation of certain groups and sectors. The monitoring Guide and Tools have elaborated the normative contents of the rights covered from the point of view of Rights-Holder through primary data gathering methods of research.

Community –Based Dialogues Project (CBD)

Community –Based Dialogues Project is a mechanism originally utilized to provide a venue for human rights defenders to raise concerns regarding human rights. The CBD Project involves the conduct of a series of dialogue sessions in different areas nationwide to allow different stakeholders groups (AFP, PNP, CHR and CSOs) to come together to identify and discuss local human rights issues, and find ways to address them. The CBD Project is now on its 4th phase, the main objective of which is the institutionalization of human rights dialogues. In the 4th phase, the project expands into Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

For 2017, the Commission conducted 5 Regional Institutionalization session conducted in Cagayan De Oro City, Tacloban City, Iloilo City, Lucena City and in Subic.

Engagement at the United Nations / International Human Rights Mechanisms and other UN Bodies

As the national human rights institution, the CHR continues to contribute to the development of existing or new mechanisms for the protection of human rights at the regional and international levels. This year, the Commission once again actively participated as resource person and/or workshop participant at the various international fora on human rights organized by the United Nations bodies and other international organizations to articulate human rights concerns of the country, elicit international cooperation and support, and to contribute its own experiences for the enrichment of the international human rights protection systems.

Table 19: Engagement at the United Nations / International Human Rights Mechanisms

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
61 ST Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), entitled: Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work	March 11-26, 2017	New York, Washington DC, San Francisco and Los Angeles California USA
1) Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI Bureau and Regional Meetings; 2) GANHRI General Meeting; 3) GANHRI Annual Conference; and 4) Meeting Towards a Common Treaty Body Approach to Engagement with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)	March 6-10, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
Speaker in a Side Session of the UN Commission on Narcotics Drugs meeting, entitled, Human Rights Challenge Responding to Extrajudicial Killings to the Drug War	March 16, 2017	Vienna, Austria
Pre-Session meeting of the Universal Periodic Review	April 4-7, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
Roundtable Discussion with Filipino Teachers Based in Maryland; Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) with the theme, "Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous	April 14 to May 2, 2017	Maryland, New York, USA

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
Peoples: Measures Taken to Implement the Declaration”		
27 th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)	May 8-11, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
Consultative Roundtable on the Feasibility of a Special Mechanism for the Promotion and Protection of the Freedom of Expression and the Safety of Journalists in Southeast Asia	May 2-3, 2017	Jakarta, Indonesia
Seminar on Disseminating and Driving Forward the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Thailand	May 31, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights: Moving Ahead with National Action Plans in ASEAN	June 1 to 2, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
10 th Conference of State Parties (COSP) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Theme: The Second Decade of the CRPD: Inclusion and Full Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their Representative Organizations in the Implementation of the Convention	June 13-15, 2017	New York, U.S.A.
3 rd AICHR Regional Dialogue on the Mainstreaming of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community (Access to Justice, Entrepreneurial Enterprises and Disaster Management)	June 19-21, 2017	Phuket, Thailand
5 th Thematic Session of the Global Compact on Migration	September 4-5, 2017	Vienna, Austria
Adoption of the Outcome of the Philippines Universal Review	September 22, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Human Rights Indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	September 5 – 6, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
GANHRI Working Group on Ageing Special Session and the 2 nd ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons	September 18-21, 2017	Seoul, Korea
Sessions of the Human Rights Council and the adoption of the outcome of the	September 20-22, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
Philippines Universal Periodic Review (UPR)		
Meeting of the GANHRI Task Force on Migration; 6 th Thematic Session of the Global Compact for Migration with the Topic “Labor Mobility and Irregular Migration”	October 11-13, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	November 6-8, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
United Nations Climate Change Conference	November 13-15, 2017	Bonn, Germany
United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights	November 26-30, December 1, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
Stocktaking Meeting for the Global Compact for Migration	December 4-6, 2017	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

As a National Human Rights Institution, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) continuously maintains its strong linkage to the regional and international networks or other human rights bodies. These engagements paved way for the Commission to enhance and develop a broader human rights perspective as a National Human Rights Institution, and an opportunity to share with and learn best practices from other human rights bodies.

Table 20: Regional and International Engagements with National Human Rights Institutions and Other Human Rights Bodies

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
APF-UNDP Conference on the Yogyakarta Principles: What Have We Learnt and Where to Now?	April 25-26, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
Asian NHRI Workshop on the Indigenous Navigator	June 13-14, 2017	Chiang Mai, Thailand
Senior Executive Officer (SEO) Network Meeting	August 29-30, 2017	Melaka, Malaysia
22 nd Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)	November 29-30, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
Asia Pacific Forum (APF) Facilitators’ Training Workshop	December 12-16, 2017	Jakarta, Indonesia
Human Rights Violations Victims Memorial Commission Approved Museum Benchmarking and Study Visit	December 10-17, 2017	South Korea

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
Meeting with the UN Experts	February 15-18, 2017	Amsterdam, Netherlands
The 9 th Edition of the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy	February 19-21, 2017	Geneva, Switzerland
6 TH Asia Democracy Network (ADN) Steering Committee	February 26-27	Bangkok, Thailand
Learning Lab on “Improving Security Sector Governance (SSG) in Southeast Asia	March 1-2, 2017	Seam Reap, Cambodia
Resource Person in the Roundtable Event, entitled “NHRI CSO Cooperation in Asia Comparative Examples”	March 30, 2017	Yangon, Myanmar
Regional Stakeholders Consultation for the Asia Pacific Region	April 5, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
2017 Busan Democracy Forum	May 15-20, 2017	Busan, Korea
Speaker – ASEAN 50 Years: What is in it for the People	May 12, 2017	Amsterdam, Netherlands
8 th Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing	July 5-7, 2017	New York, U.S.A
Meeting with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)	July 9, 2017	New York, U.S.A
World Population Day 2017 “Family Planning Empowering People, Developing Nations”	July 11, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
Regional Conference on Democracy in South East Asia – Achievements, Challenges and the Road	September 2-3, 2017	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2017 World Human Rights Cities Forum	September 14-17, 2017	South Korea
Ninth International Conference of Ombuds Institution for the Armed Forces (91COAF organized by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the United Kingdom’s Service Complaints Ombudsman for the Armed Forces	October-10, 2017	London, United Kingdom
2017 Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders	October 17-19, 2017	Dublin, Ireland
Regional Transgender Health Conference: From Barriers to Bridges Increasing Access to HIV and Other Health Services for Trans People in Asia	September 20-22, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
7 th Regional Conference on Human Rights and Agribusiness in South East Asia	October 11-12, 2017	Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia
Dying Democracy: Public Forum on the War on Drugs and the Human Rights Situation in the Philippines	October 5, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Addressing Protection of Human Rights Defenders for the Mid-Year Meeting of Solidarity for the ASEAN People's Advocacy (SAPA)	October 15-16, 2017	Jakarta, Indonesia
Human Rights and Drug Policy in East Asia 2017	October 16-29, 2017	Hongkong
"AICHR Regional Consultation on the Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in ASEAN (with emphasis on rural communities)	October 25-27, 2017	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
Asean Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Workshop on Rights Based Approach to Regional Management Strategy for an Effective Environmental Impact Assessment	October 29-30, 2017	Yangon, Myanmar
Regional Workshop for Promoting Comprehensive and Humanized National Legislation aimed at Preventing and Combating Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) in ASEAN Member States	November 2-3, 2017	Bangkok, Thailand
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Workshop	October 29-30, 2017	Yangon, Myanmar
Asian Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights	November 27-30, 2017	Ha, Long Bay, Vietnam
Reinforcing Regional Cooperation to Promote Freedom of Expression and the Rule of Law in Asia Through Ending Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists	December 4, 2017	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Workshop on Human Rights City and the Role of Local Government on Respecting, Protecting and Fulfilling Human Rights at the SEANF Respective Countries	December 4-5, 2017	Banten, Indonesia
14 th Inter-PA Parliamentary Forum on Securing Sector Governance (IPF-SG)	December 5-7, 2017	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
Security Sector Governance in Transition Societies: Working Towards Effective and Accountable Security Provision		
4 th Human Rights Cities Conference, entitled “Strengthening the Role of Local Government in Preventing Intolerance and Extremism by Violence through the Expansion of Human Rights Cities	December 6-7, 2017	Kuningan, South Jakarta
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) Asia Conference entitled: Yogyakarta Principles 10: Reflections, Updates and Next Steps	December 6-8, 2017	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
International Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Human Rights	December 10-11, 2017	Dhaka, Bangladesh

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS SERVICES

MANPOWER COMPLEMENT

The comparative data of 2016 and 2015 shows us that there has been a significant increase in the number of vacant positions for the central and regional offices. This data, however, has no bearing on the filled-up positions as there has been no significant change on that category. This points to the fact that there have increased in the manpower complement of the CHR as an organization which is related to the change in its organizational structure.

For 2017, there has been an increase in the filled-up positions in the central offices and a corresponding decrease in the vacancy. This is also the same case for the regional offices.

Table 22: Summary of Filled-Up and Vacant Positions for 2017

OFFICES	As of December 31, 2017
Central	403
Filled-Up	282
Vacant	121
Regional	448

Filled-Up	330
Vacant	118
TOTAL	851

As of 2017, the CHR organizational structure has 851 positions. Out of this total, 612 are filled-up positions with 282 in the central offices and 330 in the regional offices. As of December 31, 2017 there are only 239 vacant positions left, with 121 in the central offices and 118 in the regional offices.

	CENTRAL				REGION		TOTAL
	Level				Level		
	PA	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	1 ST	2 ND	
MALE	2	43	77	0	46	132	300
FEMALE	3	31	126	0	47	105	312
Total	5	74	203	0	93	237	612

Further, in the Central Office, 122 of them are male and 160 are female. In the Regional Offices, 178 are male and 152 are female. In totality, the Commission has 300 Male Employees and 312 Female Employees.

The Commission employed lawyers, investigators, Trainor's/Education Officers, Administrative Staff and Cotermious Positions.

	Central		Region		TOTAL (Central and Region)	
	Filled-up	Vacant	Filled-up	Vacant	Filled-up	Vacant
Lawyers	20	18	51	56	71	74
Investigators	37	15	119	32	156	47
Trainor's/Education Officer	31	17	42	12	73	29
Cotermious	38	4	0	0	38	4
	126	54	212	100	338	154

From the Central Office, the Commission has filled-up positions with 20 lawyers, 37 investigators, 31 Trainor's/Education Officers, and 38 Cotermious. There are still vacant positions of 18 lawyers, 15 investigators, 17 Trainor's/Education Officers, and 4 Cotermious.

In the Regions, the Commission has filled-up positions with 51 lawyers, 119 investigators, and 42 Trainor's/Education Officers. There are still vacant positions of 56 lawyers, 32 investigators, and 12 Trainor's/Education Officers. There are no vacant for cotermious employees.

On sectoral representation, Commission employed two (2) Indigenous People from the central office and nineteen (19) from the regions which total to 21. It also employed six (6) persons with disability in which three (3) are stationed at the Central Office and three (3) at the regional offices.

Capacity Building Programs

To further enhance the capacities of officers and staff of the Commission, the following scholarships, trainings, seminars, workshops and capacity building activities were attended and participated in: Master of Strategic Public Relations; 4th Annual Asia Young Leaders for Democracy (AYLD) Program; Chevening Scholarship-Master of Laws; 48th Annual Study Session entitled "Health and International Human Rights Law; 13th Annual Course on the Law of Internal Displacement; ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Workshop on Rights Based Approach to Regional Management Strategy for an Effective Environmental Impact Assessment; Workshop on Human Rights and the Garments Industry; Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights: Moving Ahead with National Action Plans in ASEAN; Asian NHRI Workshop on the Indigenous Navigator: Regional Blended Learning Course on Human Rights and the Environment/Climate Change in the Framework of Agenda 2030, Face-to-Face Workshop; Regional Workshop for Promoting Comprehensive and Humanized National Legislation aimed at Preventing and Combating Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) in ASEAN Member States; ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Workshop; Workshop on Human Rights City and the Role of Local Government on Respecting, Protecting and Fulfilling Human Rights at the SEANF Respective Countries; and Asia Pacific Forum (APF) Facilitators' Training Workshop.

The Commission also conducted local Training Activities such as: Strategic Performance and Management System for Leaders (SPMS); Effective Technical and Business Writing and Powerful Oral Presentation; Orientation for Retiring Employees; Training on Updated Implementing Rules and Regulation of Procurement Law (R.A. 9184); Orientation on Records Disposition Management; Supervisory Development Course Track 1-3; Basic Human Rights Seminar and Ethical Leadership.

General Appropriations

For the fiscal year 2017, the Commission received a funding from the Department of Budget and Management with a total amount of Php 724, 868, 000. Of this total, Php 294, 414 was allocated to Personnel Services, Php 321, 960 to MOOE, Php 10,000 to Financial Expenses, and Php 105, 484 to Capital Outlay.