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July 13, 2007

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2007 - 0103

**TO: All Regional Directors of Center for Health Development (CHDs), Medical Center Chiefs of Special/Specialty Hospitals, Chiefs of Hospitals and all others concerned**

**SUBJECT: Reiteration on the prescribed use of the Red Cross Symbol**

This memorandum is in compliance to the letter request of Secretary General Corazon Alma G. Deleon, Philippine National Red Cross, National Headquarters dated June 25, 2007 for the re-issuance of Department Memorandum No. 100 s. 2001 dated July 9, 2001 which prescribes the proper use of the Red Cross Symbol.

The proper use of the Red Cross emblem is regulated under the 1949 Geneva Conventions to which the Philippine government is one of the 189 signatories and Presidential Decree 1643 (PNRC Charter). Misuse and abuse thereof is unlawful and therefore considered a criminal act and subject to imprisonment and/or fines.

Article 44 of the Geneva Conventions reads:

“...the emblem of the Red Cross on a white background and the words “Red Cross”, or “Geneva Cross” may not be employed, either in time of peace or in time of war, except to indicate or protect the medical units and establishments, the personnel and material protected by the present Convention . . .

The International Red Cross organizations and their duly authorized personnel shall be permitted to make use, at all times, of the emblem of the Red Cross on a white background.”

Furthermore, the first paragraph of Article 53 of the Geneva Conventions reads:

“The use by individuals, societies, firms or companies either public or private, other than those entitled thereto under the present Convention, of the emblem or the designation “Red Cross” or “ Geneva Cross”, or any sign or designation constituting an imitation thereof, whatever the object of such use and irrespective of the date of its adoption, shall be prohibited at all times.”

Section 15 of the Presidential Decree No. 1643 provides:

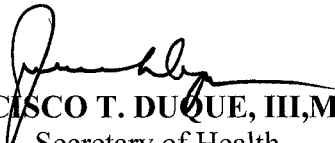
“The use of the name Red Cross is reserved exclusively to the Philippine National Red Cross and the emblem of the Red Greek Cross on a white background is reserved exclusively to the Philippine National Red Cross, medical services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and such other medical facilities or other institutions as may be authorized by the Philippine National Red Cross as provided under Article 44 of the Geneva Conventions. It shall be unlawful for any other person or entity to use the words Red Cross or Geneva Cross or to use the emblem of the Red Greek Cross on a white background or any designation, sign or insignia constituting an imitation thereof for any purpose whatsoever.”

In view of the above legal references, Regional Directors of Center for Health Development (CHDs), Provincial, City and Municipal Health Officers, Chiefs of Hospitals and all others concerned are hereby enjoined to implement the proper use of the Red Cross symbol in your respective levels by removing or changing the Red Cross symbols printed on your ambulances, buildings and other structures. Kindly inform your local hospitals, rural health units and health centers on this matter.

Only the Philippine National Red Cross, members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are authorized by law to use the Red Cross Emblem. Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) are not allowed to use the Red Cross Emblem.

Any violation of this Memorandum shall be reported at once to the Philippine National Red Cross local chapters.

For strict compliance.

  
FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, III, MD, MSc.  
Secretary of Health