

12 February 2024

POSITION OF THE HOTEL AND RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION INTO THE
IMPLEMENTATION GAPS RE: RA NO. 7277 AS AMENDED AND RA NO. 7432 AS
AMENDED & POLICIES THAT PROVIDE DISCOUNTS, INCENTIVES AND TAX
EXEMPTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & SENIOR CITIZENS

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Director for Restaurants, COHARA

1. Founded in 1951 as a non-stock, non-profit organization, and reincorporated in August 2002, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines ("HRAP") represents the various sector of the Hospitality Industry which includes hotels, restaurants, allied sector or the industry suppliers, the associate sector that comprises schools offering hotel and restaurant management/ administration or tourism-oriented degree courses; affiliate sector composed of organizations of professionals working the Hospitality Industry.
2. HRAP ensures that the interests and concerns of the industry are given priority and due attention by the national leadership. With a nationwide network of members, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP) is the recognized industry association that represents the accommodation and foodservice industry.
3. One of HRAP goals is promotes unity & cooperation among the industry players in order to protect the interest & welfare of the hospitality industry
4. Globally, it is affiliated with the Asean Tourism Association (ASEANTA) and the Asean Hotel & Restaurant Association (AHRA) of which HRAP is part of of the nine Asean countries that founded the AHRA.

HRAP Position on the implementation gaps re: RA No 7277 as amended & RA 7432 as amended and policies that provide discounts, incentives and tax exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens

To pursue further HRAP goals, we:

1. HRAP in cognizant of the Philippine government growing concerns of the older population and persons with disabilities fully supports its effort to put in place mechanisms for them to have quality life, thus adheres to the implementation of RA No 7277 as amended & RA No 7432 as amended.
2. HRAP asserts that there is a need establish additional implementing rules to be able to protect also the stakeholders giving out discounts, thereby suggesting the following:

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3. Establish a central authentication process nationwide with set standard requirements and must be implemented nationwide by all LGU's or the authorized body that is responsible in releasing IDs for Senior Discounts and PWDs. Discounts for PWDs is solely meant for actual persons with disability, thus a complete medical certificate issued by and accredited by the National Council on Disability should be a part of the requirement.

4. As provided by the National Council Order No. 001, s2008, PWDs are person suffering from disabling diseases resulting to their limitations to perform day-to-day activities as normally as possible, regarding this, there is a need to enable the stakeholders/establishment with the policing power to report and withheld fake PWD and Senior Citizens discount IDs as the stakeholders/establishment sees fit.

5. To protect the integrity of the law and not to be able to circumvent its use, it's a must that proper orientation and guidelines shall be disseminated to all Seniors and PWDs who are issued with IDs and properly informed of the equivalent criminal charges and penalties for its abuse and falsification

Conclusion:

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines ("HRAP") believes and encourages high ethical standards and recognizes the government programs that ensures to upgrade and continue to professionalize our Hospitality Industry.

- Nothing follows -



EUGENE T. YAP
Chairman & President