



From the CBCP Secretariat. For Press Release.

**The Position of the CBCP team on the study of the HB 4244
as proposed by Malacañan is summarized as follows:**

1. The HB 4244 has good provisions (building hospitals, maternal and children's health care, rights of the poor, education, etc.); however these are interwoven – packaged with – the bad provisions. By the term *bad provisions* is meant, first, those portions of the bill which will promote and legalize contraceptives as means of population control (contraceptive pills, and gadgets which have abortifacient effects, sterilization procedures, etc.) these are widely acknowledged as having serious adverse consequences on human health and lives, especially those of the mothers, mothers-to-be and of the new human lives that are formed at fertilization. Second, deemed *bad provisions* also are those that seek to establish a mindset and a value-system that are secularist, materialistic, individualistic and hedonistic in the guise of development and modernity, but which in effect are hostile to human life, the family and religion. The bill abuses the meanings of “rights”, “choice”, “freedom” and “responsible parenthood” even as these trample on the religious and moral exercise of *conscience*. Since bad provisions are present in HB 4244, the Bishops reject the bill in its entirety.
2. The Philippines does not need this bill. All the good provisions it contains are already mandated in the Constitution, and are already programs of the government agencies concerned. These simply need to be implemented through aggressive and sincere policy enforcement.
3. Since public funds will be used to promote HB 4244's contraceptive agenda (hidden behind the funding of construction of hospitals, maternal health programs, and the like). The Bishops object to the passage of the bill.

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4. The Philippines is a sovereign state. Government should not yield to pressures coming from the treaty monitoring bodies of the UN such as the ICPD and the CEDAW to legislate certain rights that have not been contemplated nor intended in various international instruments. It should not be pressured to comply with the MDG agenda, which uses a disturbing “reproductive rights” approach in fostering its 8 goals. Moreover, it is only a declaration.

5. Inasmuch as President Benigno Simeon Aquino has already publicly declared his intention to implement his own 5-point agenda on responsible parenthood (RP), the Bishops do not see any reason to further undertake a serious study/dialogue on HB 4244 with the administration as was proposed by President Aquino himself. HB 4244 and President Aquino’s 5-point RP agenda are deemed to be basically the same.

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