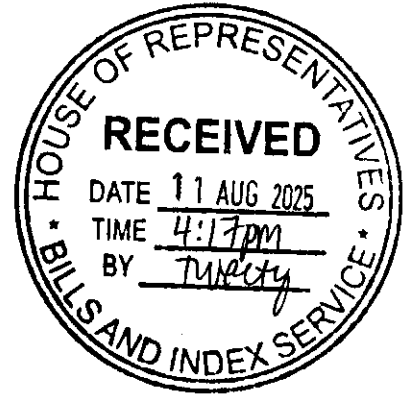


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3481



Introduced by: **REP. RACHEL MARGUERITE "CUTIE" DEL MAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The purpose of this legislative measure is to mandate the substitution of the term "Persons with Disabilities" (PWDs) with the term "People of Determination" (POD) in all applicable statutes, regulations, policies, official documents, and government communications.

The term "People of Determination," which originated in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is herein adopted in recognition of its affirming and empowering connotation. It shifts the focus from limitations to capabilities, emphasizing the strength, resilience, and potential of individuals with disabilities. The term shall apply inclusively to all persons with disabilities, including, but not limited to, those with physical, intellectual, sensory, and psycho-social impairments.

This bill aims to foster a more respectful and inclusive discourse regarding disability, and to promote a societal framework that acknowledges the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals, regardless of ability.

Furthermore, the measure is in conformity with the State's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which the State is a signatory. Specifically:

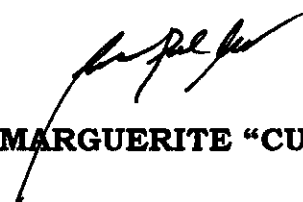
Article 1 affirms the objective of securing the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities;

Article 4 obliges States Parties to adopt appropriate legislative and administrative measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the Convention; and

Article 8 mandates the adoption of measures to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to promote recognition of their skills, merits, and contributions.

Accordingly, this bill seeks to align national legislative and policy frameworks with international standards and best practices in the use of inclusive and person-centered language, as a means of advancing the rights, dignity, and participation of persons with disabilities.

Approval of this measure is therefore respectfully and strongly recommended.



RACHEL MARGUERITE "CUTIE" DEL MAR

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3481

Introduced by: **REP. RACHEL MARGUERITE “CUTIE” DEL MAR**

AN ACT
REPLACING THE TERM PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) TO
PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION (POD) IN ALL APPLICABLE STATUTES,
RULES AND GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Persons of Determination.* – The term Persons with Disabilities (PWD) is hereby replaced as Persons of Determination (POD). POD shall replace all the PWD terms in all the laws, rules, orders, memoranda and other relevant documents. The new term shall likewise be used in all government communications and events.

SEC. 2. If any provision of this Act or any parts thereof, shall be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other portions.

SEC. 3. All laws, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,