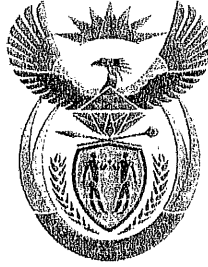


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**STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE REVIEW  
OF PHILIPPINES**

**13<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

**29 MAY 2012**

*Check against delivery*

Madame President,

We wish to welcome the delegation of the Philippines and express our appreciation for the presentation of a comprehensive national report. We commend the active role the delegation of the Philippines continues to play within Council and its commitment to the work of the Human Rights Council.

The national report clearly sets out the progress achieved on the implementation of the accepted recommendations from the first cycle. It is also appreciated that the report objectively sets out the challenges faced by the government in its efforts to advance human rights protection and promotion.

Information has also been provided regarding the efforts in the area of extrajudicial killings and the investigations and prosecutions of those responsible. South Africa welcomes the decision of the government of the Philippines to set up a National Monitoring Mechanism that will bring together various government agencies, civil society organisations and the Commission on Human Rights to monitor the nation's progress in resolving cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture. South Africa recommends that the National Monitoring Mechanism be allocated with adequate resources to ensure it effectively carries out its mandate.

We also welcome the establishment in 2011 of the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster aimed at improving the overall quality of life of the Filipino people and empowering the poor and marginalized segments of society. The Cluster has met frequently since its establishment and my delegation would be interested in further information on the results achieved thus far and the benefits to the targeted communities.

Finally Madame President,

We thank the delegation of the Philippines for their constructive interaction with the working group today and wish them well in the follow-up processes to be undertaken.

I thank you.