*Pls. check against delivery*

**PHILIPPINES**

UPR of the SOUTH AFRICA

27th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Human Rights Council

2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 10 May 2017

The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of South Africa and the presentation of is national report.

My delegation also welcomes the adoption of the *National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030*, South Africa’s first long term development plan aimed at eliminating poverty and reducing inequality by 2030.

We laud South Africa’s pro-poor education budget, which has increased exponentially through the years. We note that education in South Africa is publicly funded with learners from poor families exempted from paying school fees.

We appreciate South Africa’s ratification of the ICESCR and ILO Convention 189.

Cognizant of South Africa’s important contribution to see TNC activities regulated, my delegation recommends that South Africa continue to develop and implement a framework that holds companies accountable, particularly those in the extractive sector, for human rights violations and environmental degradation for their operations.

My delegation further recommends the following in the spirit of amity and constructive dialogue:

1. Prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and eliminate violence against women, including domestic violence; and
2. Ratify ICRMW, OP CAT, and OP ICESCR.

We wish South Africa success in its UPR. Thank you, Mister President. **END**