

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE)
Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)
City of Manila

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DOLE/ PRC-REQUESTED ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSIONALS

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I. Assessment on the Quantity and Quality of the Current Stock of Professionals (RAs and RLAs)

a) Base Facts and Figures

- 1) 27,638 **registered architects (RAs)** over a ninety (90)-year period (1921 through 2011); the number includes the deceased, the retired, those working overseas, those with suspended or revoked certificates of registration and those who have abandoned the practice;
- 2) 6,270 RAs (22.7%) registered by the incumbent **PRBoA** over the last 5 years (2007 through 2011), mainly due to the increased numbers of takers of the State licensure examination for architects (**LEA**);
- 3) +50% LEA passing rate attained in the years 2010 and 2011;
- 4) only approx. 11,000 **RAs** (39.8%) licensed by the Commission over the last three (3) years i.e. PRC identification (**ID**) cards/ license renewal issued to **registered and licensed architects (RLAs)**; and
- 5) only approx. 11,000 RAs (39.8%) are members in good standing of the integrated and accredited professional organization of architects (**IAPOA**) for the year 2011; this figure already includes about 2,000 new **RLAs** for year 2011 alone (who make up 18.18% of the 2011 **IAPOA** membership).

*Note: The following also constitute part of the present labor pool of the **RLAs**:*

- i) *more than 2,000 **LEA** failures who may already be gainfully employed, but many of these could be working for other registered and licensed professionals (**RLPs**),*

- chiefly civil engineers (CEs) or developers/ constructors, who may be engaged in the illegal practice of the separate State-regulated profession of architecture;*
- ii) about 5,000 to 6,000 apprentices worldwide, possibly preparing for the LEA;*
 - iii) as many as 2,000 graduates of the B.S. Architecture program annually; and*
 - iv) about 13,000 architecture students presently enrolled at various levels.*

b) General Assessment on Quantity

- 1) Considering present-day demands, the number of **RA**s (estimated at about 26,500 (excluding the deceased and retired) appears to be just right i.e. 1 **RA** for every 4,000 Filipinos; however, the number of **RLA**s is low i.e. 1 **RLA** for every 9,650 Filipinos;
- 2) Even if the **LEA** passing rate is higher than the national average for State licensure examinations (at approx. 39%), the passing rate is still low; the ideal would be in the 65% to 75% range;
- 3) The number of **RLA**s who are **PRC ID** card holders is very low; it should be in the range of 55% to 67% of the number of **RA**s; and
- 4) Even while the law mandates **RLA** membership in the **IAPOA**, the **IAPOA** membership is low; at say 26,500 living and non-retired **RA**s, it should at least have a 50% to 60% membership xxx as the **IAPOA** i.e. 13,250 to 15,900 members; about 5,000 (45.45%) of the **IAPOA**'s present number of approx. 11,000 members are recent **RLA**s i.e. aged less than 27 years old and registered over the last 3-4 years, and are most likely working as junior architects.
- 5) The present estimate for **RLA**s/ **RA**s working in all levels of Philippine (PH) Government range from a low of 450 to a high of 700, with the bulk working for State agencies; an estimate of less than 150 **RLA**s/ **RA**s work for local government units (**LGUs**), with less than 60 **RLA**s/ **RA**s presently known to be working as Architectural Section Chiefs, Assistant Building Officials or Building Officials at their **LGUs**;
- 6) The present estimate for **RLA**s/ **RA**s working as private consultants at all levels of Philippine (PH) Government, particularly for various projects that have been subjected to procurement procedures under **R.A. No. 9184** (Government Procurement Reform Act/ **GPRA** of 2003) range from a low of 100 to a high of 200, with the bulk working part-time or contracted full time for State agency projects;
- 7) The present estimate for **RLA**s/ **RA**s teaching architecture (part-time and full time) at both the public and private sectors range from

a low of 400 to a high of 550, with the bulk working for private schools; at 13,000 students, this is an approximated ratio of 1 **RLA/RA** instructor for every 30 students on average;

- 8) There could be as many as 2,500 **RAs** (and **RLAs**) and as many as 4,000 apprentices (B.S. Architecture graduates) working worldwide, in such locations as the Middle East, Hong Kong, Singapore, the USA and Canada, etc.;
- 9) There may be about 700 architectural firms in active operation, many of these quite possibly neither **DTI-** nor **SEC-**registered; only about 35 of these are registered with the Commission; less than 50 architectural firms are known to participate in Government-procured architectural service contracts; and
- 10) There may be about 100 foreign architects (**FAs**) in and out of the country doing projects on Philippine soil, in direct contravention of law. Only 2 of these have Temporary/ Special Permits (**TSPs**) from the Commission i.e. the rest may already be in direct violation of law.

c) General Assessment on Quality

- 1) It is roughly estimated that up to 30% (say 2,750) of the **RLAs** are the elder **RLAs** i.e. over 40 years old, and possibly engage in small office practice, general consulting, project/ construction management or design-build services; their estimated local gross income is from PhP100,000.00 [+/- US dollars (**USD**)2,500.00] per month/ man-month up; some **RLAs** working on foreign-funded service contracts for work in the PH are known to be paid as much as USD 4,000.00 to USD 5,000.00 per man-month, excluding overhead and field expenses, and largely depending on the type of work contracted (from sector consultant all the way up to project manager) i.e. with the work spread out over several weeks or months; foreign rates/ compensation monthly for work done overseas by **RLAs/ RAs** could be higher or lower (depending on travel, living and related accommodations/ arrangements); they all generally work part-time and on several projects for different clients at a given period; these **RLAs** are specialized practitioners and could be classified as **RLA III**;
- 2) The **RLAs** aged 28 to 40 may be in supervisory roles in their respective offices or are already engaged in gainful private practice; their estimated local gross income is from PhP50,000.00 (+/- USD1,250.00) per month/ man-month up; they generally work part-time and on several projects for different clients at a given period or they may work full time for one employer; these **RLAs** are semi-

specialized or long-time general practitioners and could be classified as **RLA II**;

- 3) Many of the **RLAs** aged 23 to 28 are presently occupying junior positions in their offices; their estimated local gross income is from PhP20,000.00 (+/-USD500.00) per month/ man-month up; they generally full time for one employer and are often required to render much overtime work, even on weekends; these **RLAs** are initial general practitioners and could be classified as **RLA I**;
- 4) Generally speaking, many **RLAs/ RAs** working in the PH (and abroad) are working on tasks related to any of the following scopes of lawful architectural practice as defined under **R.A. No. 9266**:
 - a) General Practice: physical planning, architectural design and structural conceptualization;
 - b) General Consulting Service/s: consultation, consulting, giving oral or written advice and directions, conferences, evaluations, investigations, quality surveys, architectural and operational/ space planning, site analysis and other pre-design services;
 - c) Regular Design Service/s: schematic design, design development, contract documents, preparation of detailed architectural (DA) plans, specifications, bill of materials, cost estimates, general conditions and bid/ tender documents and construction phase services including periodic construction supervision (PCS);
 - d) Pre-Design Service/s: preparation of technical preliminary, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of projects and of plans, models and project promotional/ collateral material;
 - e) Construction Service/s: construction and project management, giving general management, administration, supervision, coordination and responsible direction or the physical/ space planning and/or architectural design relating to construction, reconstruction, erection, enlargement or demolition, renovation, repair, orderly removal, remodelling, alteration, preservation or restoration of buildings/ structures or complex buildings, including all their components, sites/ grounds and environs (intended for both private or public use);
 - f) Allied Design Service/s: the planning, architectural lay-outing and utilization of spaces within and surrounding such buildings/ structures, housing design and community architecture, architectural interiors and space planning, architectural detailing, architectural lighting, acoustics, architectural lay-outing of mechanical, electrical, electronic, sanitary, plumbing, communications and other utility systems, equipment and fixtures;
 - g) Specialized Service/s: building programming, building administration, construction arbitration/ mediation/ conciliation and architectural conservation and restoration;

all other works which relate to the scientific, aesthetic and orderly coordination of all works and branches of the work, systems and process necessary for the production of a complete building/ structure (whether for public or private use), in order to enhance and safeguard life, health and property and the promotion and enrichment of the quality of life; the architectural design of engineering structures or any part thereof; and

- h) Architectural Instruction: all other works, projects and activities which require the professional competence of an architect, including teaching of architectural subjects and architectural computer-aided design for B.S. Architecture program students, **LEA** reviewers and **RLAs/ RAs** enrolled in **CPD/E** programs.

II. Measures Recommended to Address Any Supply-Demand Mismatch (in the Professional Architectural Services Sub-sector/ Industry)

- a) To **increase the number of RLAs** (from its present low figure of 39.8% of the total number of **RAs**), the **good standing requirement** of the Commission **prior to PRC ID card renewal must be lifted**; the incumbent **PRBoA** has been consistent in its stand that there may be **no** clear basis under present laws, particularly under **R.A. No. 9266** (The Architecture Act of 2004) for such an imposition; xxx;
- b) The **PRBoA** must evolve a Commission-certified **specialization program for RLAs**, utilizing the continuing professional development/ education (**CPD/E**) system that is already in place and a peer evaluation system that must be institutionalized; the **CPD/E** credits must come from full **CPD/E** programs i.e. 3-5 day seminar-workshops (minimum of 24 contact hours) and not just from conventions and meetings where there is little time for resource person-attendee interactions;
- c) Evolve a **master's degree program for RLAs, utilizing the CPD/E system** that is already in place and its integration with the Commission on Higher Education (**CHED**)'s Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (**ETEEAP**) as the graduate degree-granting mechanism;
- d) Promote **greater compliance by RLAs with** valid and subsisting physical planning, building, environmental, procurement and professional regulatory **laws (PRLs)** through their integration into the **CPD/E** system;
- e) **Creation of a new organization of architectural firms** to succeed the erstwhile Council of Consulting Architects and Planners of the Philippines/ **CCAPP** (juridical persons only i.e. **not** part of the **IAPOA**) that could guarantee increased participation by **RLA/ RAs** under **R.A.**

- No. 9184 (GPRA)** procurement processes for architectural and physical planning service contracts;
- f) Institutionalize a **RLA classification system** i.e. **RLA I** (junior grade) to **RLA III** (senior grade); the lower **RLA** level architects may use the **CPD/E** system to attain a higher **RLA** classification through the acquisition of more specializations in practice;
 - g) Conduct a **profession-wide survey to classify the present state of architecture specializations** to better address present, emerging and future market demands;
 - h) Promote **greater involvement/ participation of RLAs in borderless practices** through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Mutual Recognition Arrangements/ Agreements (**ASEAN MRAr/ MRA**, a Government-to-Government liaison) and the **APEC Architect Register** (an economy-to-economy liaison, substantially dominated by private sector initiatives);
 - i) Many **RLAs**, while qualified for work in Government by law, are unable to do so as they **appear to be prevented from entering public service** quite possibly by other State-registered and licensed professionals (**RLPs**) who may already be engaged in certain types of concerted action; stronger executive and legislative actions are needed to rectify the situation;
 - j) **Control and stop the illegal practice of architecture by other unqualified RLPs**, specifically **CEs** and their apprentices (who may have had some, if not **very limited** knowledge of architecture); concerted judicial, legislative action coupled with resolute executive action are needed to fully address this situation;
 - k) **Regulate the internet-based practice of the architecture profession** particularly in business process outsourcing (**BPO**) or knowledge process outsourcing (**KPO**) work environments at some future time (as it is very difficult to monitor at this time); and
 - l) **RLAs** through the **IAPOA** must **embark on a better and sustained public information dissemination campaign** to make the public realize the value and importance of dealing with **RLAs**.

Prepared for the **PRC** by:

The Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (**PRBoA**)

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Nothing follows.