

Statement of the Psychological Association of the Philippines about Maria Lourdes Arellano-Carandang

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Recent events have put the work of psychologists in the public realm, in particular, the work of Dr. Maria Lourdes A. Carandang who is a Fellow, Certified Specialist in Clinical Psychology, Certified Specialist in Counseling Psychology, Certified Specialist in Developmental Psychology, and former President of the Psychological Association of the Philippines.

All members and certified psychology specialists of the Psychological Association of the Philippines are guided by the *Code of Ethics for Philippine Psychologists* and are called to uphold themselves in the highest possible levels of professionalism in their various functions as psychologists.

The Psychological Association of the Philippines acknowledges that Dr. Maria Lourdes A. Carandang is one psychologist who has adhered to the highest professional standards throughout her career that has spanned three decades. She has served the psychology community in many important ways over many years, and has been an advocate of continuing professional development of psychologists in the country. Aside from her contributions to the Psychological Association of the Philippines, she has also rendered service to various institutions, such as the Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines-Diliman, and Cardinal Santos Medical Center. She pioneered play and family therapy in the Philippines. She is the Founding Chair and Past President of the Philippine Association for Child and Play Therapy, and the Founding Chair and President of the MLAC Institute for Children and Families, Inc. Dr. Carandang has also served as a consultant to various government and non-government organizations and other national and international agencies on intervention projects and research for children and families, e.g., Australian-AID, International Catholic Child Board, International Labor Organization, UNICEF, and UN Office of Drugs and Crime.

Dr. Carandang has written 12 books on the situation of Filipino children and their families that have been used as important resources by practicing Filipino clinical psychologists and others who are in the helping profession as well as by parents. Among these are *Filipino Children under Stress: Family Dynamics and Therapy* (1987); *Children in Pain: Studies on Children who are Abused and are Living in Poverty, Prison and Prostitution* (2002); *Self-worth and the Filipino Child* (2004); *The Path to Healing: A Primer on Family Violence* (2004); and *The Magic of Play: Children Heal through Play Therapy* (2009).

For her various outstanding contributions to Philippine psychology, Dr. Carandang has been conferred the Outstanding Psychologist award by the Psychological Association of the Philippines (1988). She has been honored as a National Social Scientist by the Philippine Social Science Council (1995). The citation for the latter distinction states that the honor was being conferred on Dr. Carandang “for outstanding achievement in the discipline of psychology as demonstrated by her competence and ability at applying and translating scientific principles of psychology for the uplift of Filipino children in difficult circumstances; for her commitment and

dedication to the community at large; ...for enhancing family life through educational use of mass media and contributing to training of future psychologists.”

For the past three decades, Dr. Carandang has remained one of the most prominent and highly-esteemed clinical psychologists in the country. The Psychological Association of the Philippines is issuing this statement so that the public may know that Dr. Carandang has consistently embodied the highest levels of professionalism and ethical practice in her various functions as a psychologist in the Philippines. (PAP Statement, May 4, 2011)