

The 2007 – 2009 Reconstituted Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA)

The **Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA)**, fully **reconstituted** by late March 2007 in full compliance with **Republic Act** or **R.A. No. 9266** (otherwise known as the Philippine **Architecture Act of 2004**), is only one of the forty three (43) Professional Regulatory Boards (**PRBs**) under the "Professional Regulation Commission" (**PRC**) of the Republic of the Philippines. The **PRBoA** as an entity is under the administrative control and supervision of the **PRC**, a quasi-judicial and quasi-legislative entity that forms part of the executive branch of government. As such, it does **not** act independently on matters involving the regulation of the practice of the **profession of architecture** in the Philippines.

The **PRBoA** is a collegial body and is active in the areas of executive action relating to the **implementation and enforcement of Republic Act** or **R.A. No. 9266**, its implementing rules and regulations (**IRR**) and derivative regulations e.g. other past, present and future executive issuances of the **PRBoA** through the **PRC**.

At present, the **PRBoA** is composed of three (3) privately practicing **Registered and Licensed Architects** or **RLAs** (working only on a **part-time** engagement as **PRBoA** members). They are as follows: 1) the **PRBoA** Chairman (**Armando N. Alli**, *fuap, aaif*), with a three (3)-year term of office ending 15 November 2009; 2) a Senior **PRBoA** Member (**Angeline T. Chua Chiaco**, *fuap*), with a two (2)-year term of office ending 02 November 2008; and 3) a Junior **PRBoA** Member (**Marietta B. Segovia**, *uap, aaif*), with an initial one (1)-year term of office ending 29 March 2008.

As of end-2007, the **PRBoA** regulates the practice of twenty two thousand one hundred and eighty (22,180) **registered architects (RAs)** nationwide (and overseas). Of this number of **RAs**, it is conservatively estimated that about two-thirds (67%) have valid licenses to practice i.e. a **Registered and Licensed Architect ("RLA")** and that up to fifty percent (50.0%) are already working outside the country. The **PRBoA** also regulates the practice of **foreign architects** wishing to engage in the legal/ legitimate professional practice of architecture within the country for a limited period

of time and of **architectural firms** (single proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, associations and joint ventures).

Only **individual** foreign architects (**not** foreign architectural firms are allowed to legally practice architecture in the Philippines. The **PRBoA** actively supports the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (**APEC**) Architects Registry and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) Mutual Recognition Agreement (**MRA**) for borderless architectural practice, **as qualified** under said protocols/ agreements.

The **PRBoA** also administers the **Architects' Licensure Examinations (ALE)** given twice annually by the Philippine Government and of **Special ALEs** given in such countries as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for expatriate Filipinos (overseas foreign workers or **OFWs**). Over the past five (5) years, the ALE mortality rate ranged from 49.0% to 68.0% per examination. Over the past fifty seven (57) years of the regulation of Philippine architectural practice, only an **average** of about four hundred (400) successful examinees annually are granted certificates and licenses to practice.

Among the executive concerns being presently addressed by the **PRBoA** are general information dissemination concerning the laws/ regulations on architectural practice in the Philippines, enforcement mechanisms against illegal practitioners (**non**-RAs and **non**-RLAs) and the completion of the amendments to the 1979 Standards of Professional Practice (otherwise known as the Architect's National Code).

Among the quasi-judicial responsibilities being discharged by the **PRBoA** include the hearing of and the promulgation of decisions on administrative cases filed against RAs or RLAs and the review of cases against illegal practitioners for endorsement to prosecutors and higher Philippine courts.

Among the legislative initiatives of the **PRBoA** are participation in collaborative efforts to repeal the 1977 National Building Code of the Philippines (NBCP), the review of other professional regulatory bills filed with the Philippine Congress that may tend to undermine legal professional architectural practice (as defined under R.A. No. 9266), a new law on non-mobile billboards and various other related concerns.

You may email the **PRBoA** at prboa.ph@gmail.com. *Nothing follows.*