

## NGO SEEKS LAW TO PROTECT EPILEPTICS

**By Dennis Carcamo  
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A non-government organization is lobbying for the passage of legislation that will protect people with epilepsy from discrimination, especially at the work place.

The Philippine League Against Epilepsy (PLAE) said they are now working with members of the Committee on the persons with disability in Congress to author and bat for such measures.

"We are working overtime to ask these lawmakers to come up with legislation protecting their rights," PLAE President Dr. Leonor Cabral-Lim told Manila Standard.

Lim noted that many of these epileptic patients are forced to hide their debilitating condition for fear of losing their jobs.

### **Apprehension**

"The disease also creates some kind of apprehension in people who are working with epileptics. They (employees) are very careful in choosing their workers, they don't want to deal with people with epilepsy," the PLAE head said.

Lim, who is the head of the Department of Neurosciences at the UP-Philippine General Hospital in Manila, said aside from work epileptics are charged with higher premiums on their insurance policies.

"Of course, they (epileptics) are not allowed to engage in some high-risk jobs, like piloting an airplane or working with heavy equipment or machineries. It would not only endanger their lives but that of the lives of others," Lim said.

Lim said they are now conducting seminars in different government hospitals to educate both patients and caretakers on the condition.

"The more you know about epilepsy, the less frightening it is," the group said.