



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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HONORABLE MARIA NANCY BINAY

Chairman

Committee on Justice Welfare

And Rural Development

Senate

Pasay City

Dear Senator Binay:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) respectfully submits its comments on Senate Bill No. 1999, entitled: "An Act Establishing And Institutionalizing Long-Term Care For Senior Citizens, Providing Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes, authored by Senator Cynthia A. Villar. We welcome this initiative since it would strengthen the Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (PPASC) 2012-2016 which is aimed at empowering the Senior Citizens to achieve active ageing.

However, we have noted that the provisions found under Section 4 of the bill on employment, education, health, social services, housing, social pension program, mandatory PhilHealth coverage and social safety nets are already provided under Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9994 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010."


Hence, we recommend expanding the concept of National Long-Term Care Program Framework provided under the bills and focus on the concept of active ageing by developing programs that will enable senior citizens to remain actively engaged in as many social, economic, and community activities as possible.

In this light, the Department recommends to strengthen the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board (NCMB) to be the Inter-Agency Council that will oversee implementation of these programs for senior citizens and appropriate funds for its operation.

For the Committee's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary