



Department of Social Welfare and Development

DSWD-GF-010 | REV 01 | 17 AUG 2022

HONORABLE JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES

Chairperson

Committee on Government Reorganization

House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear Representative FLORES,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) fully supports the various bills that seek to create the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (DRRMO) or the **Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR)**, pursuant to its mandate to promote the rights and protect the welfare of the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and the disadvantaged sectors of society.

The bills creating the DDR will fully achieve DSWD's mandate under Republic Act No. 10121 as the Vice Chair for Disaster Response Cluster of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). This will enable the DSWD to create Regional Disaster Resilience Offices and Response Hubs devoted to the implementation of mandatory Disaster Preparedness and Response Management Programs, manage the Disaster Quick Response Funds to promptly respond to the needs of families or individuals affected by disasters and calamities.

DSWD recognizes that the proposed DDR Bill would respond to the State's policy on the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of general welfare. The Department emphasizes that this proposed law seeks to address the full responsibility and clear accountability in the overall disaster risk management. Thus, we in DSWD, submit our full support to the bill creating a Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR).

While there are existing law, institutional arrangement and frameworks pertaining to disaster risk reduction and management, there is a consensus among agencies and local government units (LGUs) that the current legislative process, policy, and implementation should be intensified. The need to elevate and guarantee the quality and outcome of existing policies and programs is being recognized for an efficient prevention, mitigation, and preparedness mechanism and expeditious response and rehabilitation efforts.


Furthermore, DSWD has no objection to the proposed new Department absorbing the Disaster Response Management Bureau (DRMB) and the National Resource and Logistics Management Bureau (NRLMB). DSWD respectfully recommends the provision in the bill guaranteeing the absorption of all existing personnel under the DRMB and NRLMB under the umbrella of the Disaster Response Management Group without prejudice to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations on the merit and fitness in the appointment of personnel.

The creation of the DDR shall contribute towards the resolution of temporary employment in DSWD since all staff doing disaster response activities are classified as Contract of Service (COS) and Job Order workers. The institutionalization of a new department is a strategy in scaling up the government's capacity to ably respond to natural disasters, thus, enabling us to be more responsive and more effective in fulfilling our mandate in serving the Filipino People.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Regards,



REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: _____



RINO T. CRUZ