

**HONORABLE PIA S. CAYETANO**

Chairperson  
Committee on Sustainable  
Development Goals, Innovation And  
Futures Thinking  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

ATTN: **Ms. Cleah D. Nava**  
Committee Secretary

Dear **SENATOR CAYETANO**,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the following bills:

Senate Bill (SB) No.	Title	Author
16	Water Sustainability Act	Senator Pia S. Cayetano
310	An Act to Promote Rural Health by Providing for an Accelerated Program for the Construction of a Potable Water Supply System in Every Barangay in the Country within Three Years	Senator Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri
1048	Safe Drinking Water Act	Senator Joel Villanueva

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the proposed legislative measures as it complements the DSWD's social protection objective of people empowerment and community-driven development.

The DSWD has been actively involved in implementing programs that promote the importance of access to potable water, proper sanitation, and good hygiene practices. Its efforts have raised social awareness, capacity building, and self-reliance for many Filipinos, especially those in impoverished and marginalized communities.

Evident is the inclusion of a module on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Family Development Session to promote the importance of access to potable water. The module likewise aims to trigger the 4Ps beneficiaries to demand their household/community potable water system.

Congruent to this is the implementation of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) that uses Participatory Situational Analysis Tools to assess the condition of the community through a Community-Driven Development Approach. Among the sub-projects prioritized under this program is basic social services, particularly community water systems.

As of date, there are 4,100 completed water system sub-projects under KALAHI-CIDSS, which benefitted 546,726 households in 3,626 communities.

To this end, the DSWD submits the following comments and suggestions for the consideration of the Committee:

**1. Section 2 of SBN-310**

The DSWD suggests stating that the three-year program for constructing a potable water supply system in every barangay nationwide must be borne out of the need identified by the community.

We cannot overemphasize the need to involve the community in the project's planning, designing, implementation and management, which leads to the promotion of community ownership and accountability, which in turn leads to a sustainable and well-maintained community water system. This is consistent with the community-driven development approach espoused by the KALAHI-CIDSS.


The proposed legislative measures complement the DSWD social protection objective of people empowerment and community-driven development. It also aligns with the effort to ensure that social protection policies and programs are responsive and adaptive to disasters and environmental challenges. May it be noted that DSWD is currently strengthening the shock responsiveness of the Social Protection systems to make it responsive to reduce vulnerabilities of at-risk populations, enhance their capacity to cope and mitigate the effects of shocks and improve households' resilience.

As such, DSWD supports the above-mentioned bills.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
REX GATCHALIAN  
Secretary  
MAY 15 2023