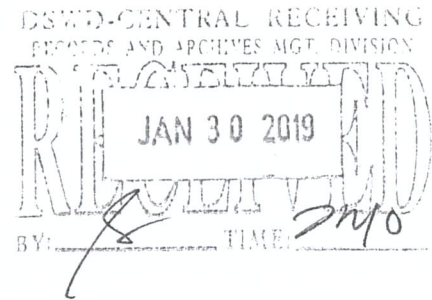


15 January 2019

ATTY. RYAN L. ESTEVEZ, MARE, MPP
Undersecretary
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
Office of the President
Malacañang, Manila



Dear **Undersecretary Estevez,**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments on House Bill Nos. 8535 and 8623, 8676 entitled "An Act to Institute Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) – Friendly Transportation Program in Cities and Urban Centers of the Country, and Appropriating Funds Therefor" which seek to establish a transportation and mobility program for PWDs under the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we hereby recommend the following:

1. Consolidate the three (3) bills into one.
2. General Comments:
 - a. The bill should offer a holistic system and mechanism which gives utmost consideration to PWD commuters considering the present Filipino commuting scheme which is aggravated by the quantity and quality of public transport vehicles, condition of roads and thoroughfares, road congestion which altogether put the sector in a disadvantage state.
 - b. The program to be created should consider issues, gaps, and challenges (e.g. transport infrastructures, accessibility features, pedestrian lanes, gender issues, education and training of drivers, managers, operators and front line staff, inaccessible overpasses and underpasses, poor terminals and stations, lack of traffic controls, poorly maintained pavements, inadequate education and training of all parties involved in the program, etc.) that need to be addressed for its intentions to be fully realized.
 - c. The bills should also consider the basic planning requirements specified in the accessibility law in designing and revolutionizing the transport system which include the following: (1) Accessibility, (2) Reachability, (3) Usability, (4) Orientation, (5) Safety and (6) Work ability and Efficiency

- d. The authors may also consider strengthening of Republic Act No. 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons) instead of creating a new law.

3. Under **Title**:

- a. Revise to read as:

*“An Act to Institute **ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM** for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Cities and Urban Centers of the Country, and Appropriating Funds Therefore.”*

- b. The bill should clearly indicate that all cities and municipalities (1st, 2nd, etc.) are covered so that it will be enjoyed by PWDs living in the country.

4. Under **Section 1**: Include the rights of PWDs stipulated under Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 or the Accessibility Law.

5. Under **Section 2**:

- a. The authors should review existing programs under the DOTr that may be similar to the intended program. For example, the Task Force on Accessibility lodged under the DOTr may be tapped to spearhead the development of transportation and mobility programs for PWDs.
- b. Include in this section the mechanisms that be utilized in the implementation of the program and the role of DOTr particularly in developing a more appropriate and accessible services for PWDs. The following may be considered among the roles of DOTr:
 - i. Consultation and engagement of end-users specifically the PWD sector in planning and designing the program.
 - ii. Public education and conduct of awareness-raising activities for commuters and vehicle operators on the needs of the PWD sector.
 - iii. Ensuring commuters, including those of various categories of disability and impairments, will have access to public transport vehicles with alighting ramp,

spaces for wheelchairs and other technical aids with safety accessories, improved public announcement systems and tap-and-go payment system.

- iv. Review of flagship programs of the present administration (e.g Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP)) to be 'environment-friendly, safe, secure and convenient with due consideration to our PWDs passengers.
6. Add a section on implementing rules and regulations that includes other government agencies (e.g. National Council on Disability Affairs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The implementing rules and regulations should clearly stipulate how the DOTr will execute the program.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA

Secretary

Date: _____

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