

18 February 2019

SECRETARY ADELINO B. SITOY

Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
Office of the President
Manila City

PRESIDENTIAL LEGISLATIVE
LIAISON OFFICE
PLLO

REC'D BY: JOSEPH DEL ROSARIO

DATE 05 MAR 2019 TIME

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear **Secretary Sitoy**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments on Senate Bill No. 2119 entitled, "An Act Providing for Rural Employment Assistance Program and Appropriating Funds Thereof" which aim to provide employment assistance to qualified members of poor families in rural areas.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. General Comments:

- a. Add a section on integration of information and communications technology (ICT) support as an integral part of the monitoring and evaluation system in the proposed program.
- b. It is recommended further that long-term employment programs should rather be given priority rather than short term engagements.
- c. The proposed program shall create unnecessary replication of existing programs under the Department such as the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) which has the Cash-for-Building Livelihood Assets (CBLA) modality and Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – National Community Driven Development Program (KALAHI-CIDSS). There is also a need to inventory other programs and services already offered or implemented by other agencies with the same scheme including their program designs to prevent redundancy on programs being implemented.
- d. Since the focus of this program is employment, the DOLE should take the lead in the implementation of this program thru the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) as per Republic Act. No. 8759 of 2000 whose function and service is focused on employment facilitation and provision in coordination with the DSWD.

2. Under **Sec. 3 – Rural Employment Assistance Program**: Further clarification on the 45-90 day length of engagement should be included in the bill particularly if this period only covers a single activity or several activities spread out within a given year. The minimum


and maximum length of engagement per work/activity should also form part of the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

3. Under **Sec. 9 – Micro-insurance Benefits:** Include the procedures involved in the provision of micro-insurance benefits and in engaging the service provider in this section.

4. For **Sec. 10 – Appropriations:**

- a. Include the phrase *human resource needed* in this section to ensure enough manpower for the implementation of the proposed program.
- b. Accessing of donations and other support from foreign and local persons should be based on the existing guideline of the Department on utilization of foreign and local donations.

Very truly yours,


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary
Date: _____