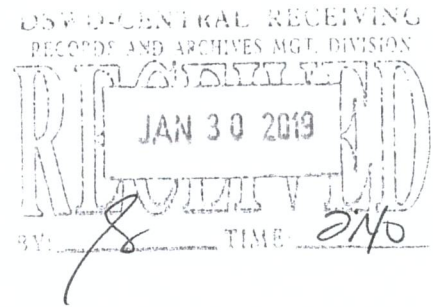


10 January 2019

**REPRESENTATIVE ALFREDO B. BENITEZ**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Housing and Urban Development  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City



Dear **Representative Benitez**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments on House Bill Nos. 7372, 7747 and 8184 or the "Rental Subsidy Program for Informal Settler Families (ISFs) Act" which seek to subsidize the rent of informal settler families.

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

1. Consolidate the three (3) bills into one.
2. General Comments:
  - a. The program should clearly position itself within the long-term goal of ISFs having security of tenure or a sense of ownership and empowerment. A section should be added a transition package from the rental subsidy program to entry to the formal housing market by the ISFs.
  - b. The program should take into consideration Republic Act No. 7279 or the Urban Housing and Development Act, which stipulates the principles governing the urban development and housing program and emphasizes the primary role of LGUs in ensuring the rational use of land, and the provision of affordable housing for underprivileged and homeless citizens.
  - c. The bill should also review successful housing project for ISFs implemented in the Philippines as one of the take-off of this proposed program and rental subsidy program implemented in other countries that may be adopted in the country.
3. For **Sec. 3 (HBN 7747)**: The full implementation of the bill should be closely coordinated by the National Housing Authority (NHA) with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

4. For **Sec. 8 – Form of Payment (HBN 8184)**: The disbursement of rental subsidy should be given to the National Housing Authority (NHA), which is also responsible in certifying the eligibility of the ISF to qualify as program beneficiary.
5. For **Sec. 9 – Roles of Government Agencies (HBN 8184)**:
- a. **Number (1), item (c)**: Remove DSWD among the agencies identified in this section.
  - b. **Number (2)**: Include in the role of NHA adequate and advance monitoring system to implement the program.
  - c. **Number (4)**: We suggest removing DSWD as an implementing agency. The Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor (PCUP) has the mandate and program to conduct social preparation of urban poor communities.
  - d. **Number (7)**:
    - i. **Item (e) and (f)**: Remove the following provision in line with the previous recommendation.
    - ii. Add to the roles of LGUs the provision of avenues for participation of ISFs in the implementation of the program.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**

Secretary

Date: January 28, 2019