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Honorable
9/19/19*

September 18, 2019

Honorable FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Chairperson
Committee on Local Government
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear **Senator Tolentino**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports Senate Bill Nos. 96, 136, 215, 366, 391 and 892 entitled: "Magna Carta for Barangay", introduced by Senators Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel, Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara, the Chairperson, Sherwin Gatchalian, Christopher Lawrence T. Go and Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., respectively. The proposed measures seek to provide benefits, privileges, career enhancement, and security of tenure for the Barangay officials.

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

1. Consolidate these bills into one.
2. To revise the Short Title, which will be read as: "Magna Carta for Barangay Officials", since the proposed measure is intended for "Barangay Officials" and not the "barangay" itself as a basic government unit.

3. On Sec. 6 – Drinking Water for Every Barangay

Island and far flung barangays should be prioritized for the establishment of the drinking water system.

4. On Sec. 7 – Transportation for Every Barangay

To include boat and motorbike used as "habal-habal" in mountainous areas for island barangays. These means of transportation should also be funded to benefit the various sectors.

5. On Sec 8 – Schools, Health Centers, and Barangay Halls

5.1 To include establishment of Child Development Center (CDCs) in every barangay; and

5.2 To include a monitoring and evaluation system, to ensure that Schools, Health Centers, and Barangay Halls are functional

6. Other Comments:

6.1 To include a provision requiring each barangay to conduct an annual updating of its demographic profile (statistics/data), especially the different sectors, as to population (children, women, PWDs, IPs, senior citizens, farmers, fishermen, etc.) to be submitted to the City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Office (C/MSWDO) and the Department of Local Government (DILG), copy furnished the concerned national government agencies, as basis for planning and policy-making.

6.2 Include a provision for the hiring of a Registered Social Worker in the barangay who shall assess and provide interventions on the different needs and concerns of the barangay constituents.

6.3 Provide Incentives to all Barangay Officials including Barangay Tanods and the Members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, and other Barangay Employees e.g., Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, Human Rights Action Officer, Gender and Development and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) focal persons which shall prescribe for a uniform and comprehensive system of operation of the barangays in the country:

6.3.1 Salaries, wages, benefits and incentives for barangay officials;

6.3.2 Programs services and projects to address the needs of the poor, vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized sectors; and

6.3.3 Additional personnel, staff and volunteers to efficiently and effectively implement various programs, services and projects.

7. Further, the Local Government Units (LGUs) through the Local Social Welfare Development Office (LSWDO) should strengthen its advocacy campaign on Gender and Development (GAD), promotion of rights and protection of various sectors of the society.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary

Date: _____


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