

Honorable **JESUS C. SUNTAY**
Chairperson
Committee on Human Rights
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Representative Suntay:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill Nos. 55, 487, 522, 1579 and 4586 or the "Anti-Racial, Ethnic and Religious Discrimination Act", which seek to address the issue of discrimination on the basis of racial, ethnic, religious beliefs, and other forms of discrimination.

To further enhance the proposed bills, the Department is recommending the following:

1. Under Definition of Terms:

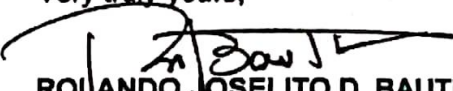
- 1.1. Adopt the definition of *discrimination* under HBN 522 and include age, language, physical features, social class, marital or relationship status, and medical history or health status;
- 1.2. Adopt the definition of *accommodation* under HBN 1579 as it encompasses space and facilities needed by older persons, children and other vulnerable sectors; and
- 1.3. Consult the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino on the definition and list of recognized *ethno linguistic group*.

2. General Comments:

- 2.1. The consolidated bill should include provisions on vicarious liability and reparation to victims which includes restitution, compensation, and rehabilitation as determined by the courts, administrative agency or quasi-judicial body; and
- 2.2. Include Section to highlight the promotion of understanding and appreciation of diversity in schools and other learning modalities to instill the basic principle of full respect for human rights regardless of circumstances.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Very truly yours,


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary
Date: MAR 02 2020

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