

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. 709, 1040 and 6309** or the "**Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Act**", introduced by Representatives Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Joy Myra S. Tambunting and Rufus B. Rodriguez, respectively, which seek to promote and protect the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

To further enhance the proposed bills, we are recommending the following:

1. Consolidate the bills into one.
2. Under **Sec. 9 - Rights During and After Displacement**
 - 2.1. Revise **letter (a), item (2)** which will be read as:
"Basic shelter and housing WITH COMPLETE AMENITIES THAT HAVE CHILD, WOMEN, SENIOR CITIZEN, PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs) AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPACES.";
 - 2.2. On **letter (a): Add item (5)** which will read as:
"(5) PROVISION OF TOILETRIES/SANITARY NAPKINS FOR FEMALE IDPs.";
 - 2.3. Include a Section to protect IDPs against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; and
 - 2.4. To include localized programs and services of National Government Agencies (NGAs) available for IDPs.
3. Under **Sec. 17 of HBN 1040 – Compensation**

Review the tasks given to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to determine damages incurred against IDPs and the facilitation of award monetary compensation. This function might exceed the constitutional mandate of the CHR as an investigative and recommendatory agency with limited authority.
4. Under **Sec. 23 of HBNs 709 and 6309, and Sec. 20 of HBN 1040 – Monitoring of Compliance**

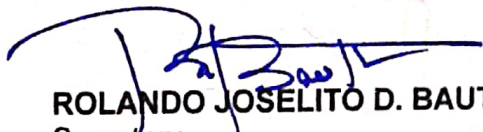
Strengthen the role of IDP Protection Cluster especially the response pillar of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in responding to human induced disaster.

5. General Comments

- 5.1. To include a separate Section containing the roles and responsibilities of all government agencies involved in this bill instead of different Sections per NGAs; and
- 5.2. Government agencies should ensure that localized programs are available to IDPs.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,


ROLANDO JOSÉLITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary
Date: MAR 11 2020