

27 April 2017

Ms. EIREEN R. PALANCA

Director III
Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office (LBRMO)
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear Director Palanca,


The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Senate Bill No. 770 or the "Donation Transparency Act" which seeks to institutionalize a mechanism for the monitoring and accounting of all foreign and local donations for natural and human-induced calamities for purposes of transparency and accountability.

In line with this, may we also submit our recommendations for your consideration:

1. On Section 4. Definition of Donations in Kind. Add "or materials" after the term "equipment." Based on experience, our Department also receives ECCD kits as donations and these may be categorized as materials. Further, the term "clothing" covered by this definition should refer only to "new" clothing and not "used" ones as prohibited by Republic Act No. 4653
2. On Section 6. Utilization and Treatment of Donations. Donations in kind which will be turned over to the DSWD shall first be subjected to the Department's assessment and approval.
3. On Section 8. Donations in Kind. The donation of food should be in line with Republic Act No. 9803 or "An Act To Encourage the Donation of Food for Charitable Purposes." This is to ensure that only food that meets the quality standards are distributed to needy individuals and communities.
4. On Section 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. DSWD should be made part of the Committee which will draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.
5. Include a provision creating a Disaster-Relief Aid Donations Fund Advisory Committee to develop and implement guidelines for fund utilization and disbursement.
6. Incorporate a provision on donations coursed through non-government organizations (NGOs) for the proper accounting and auditing of said donations.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUWALO
Secretary