



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

IBP Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126

Telephone Nos. (632) 931-8101 to 07; Telefax (632) 931-8191

E-mail: osec@dswd.gov.ph

Website: <http://www.dswd.gov.ph>

23 January 2017

SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

Chairperson

Committee on Labor, Employment and

Human Resources Development

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

Dear **Chairperson Villanueva**:

This refers to Senate Bill No. 146 or "An Act Creating the Department of Migration and Development, Defining its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefore, and for Other Purposes" filed by Senator Cynthia A. Villar.

Our Department supports the intention of the bill to further promote and protect the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers. However, may we suggest thorough review of the proposal to create the Department of Migration and Development given the government's policy to streamline the bureaucracy. It is also worth adding that the powers and functions of the proposed Department are already being undertaken by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) thru the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) thru the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) thru the Social Welfare Attaché Office (SWATO) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). These agencies regularly coordinate with each other to facilitate the delivery of more responsive services for OFWs.

On the establishment of One-Stop Migrant Assistance Centers, please note that DOLE has already launched the One-Stop Service Center for OFWs (OSSCO) on 15 August 2016 to make the availment of government services easier for the sector.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary