

HONORABLE EDGAR M. CHATTO
Chairperson
Committee on Climate Change
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Attn: **MR. ROMMEL M. REYES**
Committee Secretary

Dear **REPRESENTATIVE CHATTO**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) respectfully submits its comments and recommendations on the following House Bills, namely:

House Bill (HB) No.	Title	Author
4364	Enhancing Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Act	Rep. Gus S. Tambunting Parañaque, 2 nd District
6385	Climate Change Emergency Declaration Act	Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez Cagayan de Oro City, 2 nd District

Background

- **Republic Act (RA) No. 9729** or the “**Climate Change Act of 2009**” prioritizes sustainable way of living through food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability, among others.¹
- **RA No. 10121** or the “**Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (DRRM Act)**” promotes adherence and adoption of universal norms, principles and standards of humanitarian assistance in a holistic, comprehensive, integrated and proactive approach to reduce risks and lessen the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of disaster, as concrete expression of the country's commitment to overcome human sufferings due to recurring disasters.²

¹ One Planet Network, Climate Change Act of 2009 (RA 9729), available at <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/knowledge-centre/policies/climate-change-act-2009-ra-9729> (last accessed April 5, 2023).

² DSWD, Omnibus Guidelines on FNI and Logistics Management for Disaster Response Operations, available at https://www.dswd.gov.ph/issuances/AOs/AO_2021-002.pdf (last accessed April 5, 2023).

- **Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 2021** or the “**Omnibus Guidelines on Food and Non-Food Item (FNI) and Logistics Management for Disaster Response Operations**” issued by the Department is its contribution to ensuring that preparedness activities are institutionalized particularly during the Emergency Preparedness for Response phase.³

Comments

1. On Roles of Departments and Agencies

- Section 3 of the proposed bills provide that government departments and agencies shall immediately and efficiently cooperate in taking practicable measures to preserve and protect the environment.
- To include the DSWD, being the leader in the implementation of social protection programs in the government with critical responsibilities and roles to undertake before, during and after the onslaught of a calamity or disaster brought about by climate change. Section 5 of RA 10121 provides that the DSWD is recognized as the Vice-Chair of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council tasked, among others, to develop a NDRRMF which shall provide for a comprehensive, all-hazards, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk reduction and management.
- To monitor climate action commitments by national government agencies and private sectors to ensure accountability and transparency.

2. On Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Summit

- Section 5 of the proposed bills provide that there shall be a climate change resiliency summit to be held on the second week of September every year.
- To consider inviting countries from the ASEAN to showcase and/or share their best practices. The ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26) expressed recognition that climate change has potential negative impact to basic needs for human life, and that vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change.⁴

³ Ibid.

⁴ ASEAN Organization, ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26), available at <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/10.-ASEAN-Joint-Statement-to-COP26.pdf> (last accessed April 5, 2023).

- Also, there should be strategic information dissemination and/or advocacy activities for the public in the prevention phase.

3. On Implementing Rules and Regulations

- The proposed bills lack provision on the promulgation of an IRR.
- To include a provision on the promulgation of IRR and specify that the Department shall spearhead its promulgation through its Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS).

4. On Partnerships and Collaboration

- Section 4 of the proposed bills provide that private entities, in coordination with the national government and local government units, shall also take part in the preservation and protection of the environment by ensuring that their business practices are not detrimental and hazardous to the environment.
- To leverage existing interagency groups, such as the CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster, to pool resources and monitor climate actions effectively as indicated in Executive Order No. 24 entitled, “Reorganizing the Cabinet Clusters System by Integrating Good Governance and Anti-Corruption in the Policy Frameworks of All the Clusters and Creating the Infrastructure Cluster and Participatory Governance Cluster”.
- To strengthen the regulation of the business industry establishment/factories) in the protection preservation, and rehabilitation of the environment against climate change in view of the Philippines’ support for the Paris Climate Change Agreement on 22 April 2016.
- To incorporate the participation of vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples, women, and children, in decision-making processes related to climate change adaption and mitigation. This would ensure that voices and perspectives are heard and that their unique needs and vulnerabilities are addressed as envisioned by the Climate Change Commission tasked with creating an enabling environment for the promotion of broader multi-stakeholder participation, and facilitating capacity building for local adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring of climate change initiatives in vulnerable communities and areas.

5. Other Comment

5.1 To consolidate the Bills.

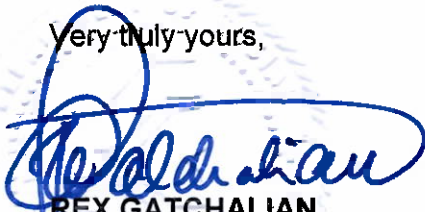
Conclusion/Recommendation

In view of the foregoing, the DSWD fully supports the passage of the proposed bills with recommended changes in light of the above-mentioned comments.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: APR 17 2023