



01 June 2017

REPRESENTATIVE DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.

Chairperson
Committee on Rural Development
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Representative Ramos:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 530 entitled, "An Act Providing for Rural Employment Assistance Program and Appropriating Funds Therefor" which aims to provide employment assistance to qualified members of poor families in rural areas. The program being proposed is similar to our Cash for Building Livelihood Assets (CBLA).

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are also recommending the following:

1. Clarify the rationale for the program's five-year implementation period as mentioned in the explanatory note of the bill.

2. Under Sec. 3 - Rural Employment Assistance Program:

a. To revise the first paragraph which will be read as follows:

"The DSWD shall implement the Rural Employment Assistance Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, in coordination with local government units. The Program shall provide temporary employment to every qualified head of family or single adult member of poor families in rural areas..."


b. Further clarification on the 45-90 day length of engagement should be included in the bill particularly if this period only covers a single activity or several activities spread out within a given year. The minimum and maximum length of engagement per work/activity should also form part of the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

3. Under Sec. 4 – Assessment to Determine Qualification for Availment of Employment Assistance: The Local Social Welfare and Development Officers (LSWDOs) should conduct initial assessment of potential program beneficiaries for further validation and approval by the DSWD.

4. Under **Sec. 6 – Types of Works and Activities:** Consider the *reconstruction and rehabilitation of projects which include shelter units and social service infrastructures (e.g. day care centers)* as possible activities the beneficiaries can take part in.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary