



13 June 2017

**SENATOR PAOLO BENIGNO A. AQUINO IV**  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

Dear Senator Aquino,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports the creation of National Commission for Senior Citizens. While the Department previously advocated for the creation of a Council for Senior Citizens – patterned after the structure of various councils attached to DSWD – we deem that a Commission can better perform both policy making and program implementation functions. Hence our strong support to this legislative measure.

To further enhance Senate Bill 674, entitled "An Act Abolishing the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board and Creating the National Commission for Senior Citizens, Amending Therefor Republic Act No. 7432, As Amended by Republic Act No. 9257, As Further Amended by Republic Act No. 9994", we would like to submit the following comments, for consideration:

1) **On Section 1:**

We propose this additional sentence to Section 11. National Commission for Senior Citizens (NCSC). The Commission shall have the same status as that of a government agency attached to the Office of the President.

2) **On Section 2:**

We recommend the following:

Sec. 2. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 12. **Board of Commissioners.** All functions and powers of the NCSC shall be vested in, and exercised by a Board of Commissioners hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of:

- 1.1. A Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President;
- 1.2. Ten (10) representatives from the Government, who are heads of the following Departments: Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); Health (DOH); Trade and Industry (DTI); Interior and Local Government (DILG); National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC); Justice (DOJ); Transportation and Communication (DOTC); National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Finance (DOF) through the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); Commission on Human Rights (CHR); and
- 1.3. Nine (9) representatives from accredited non-government organizations representing the following: Persons with Disabilities; Academe; Labor; Business

and Industry; Farmers and Fisherfolks; Urban Poor; Indigenous Peoples; Science and Health; and Elderly Women.

3) We recommend the following additional sections:

- Section on the **Powers and Functions of the Board**, to read:  
The Board shall have the following powers and functions:
  - a) To adopt and prescribe policies, programs/thrusts and rules towards the achievement of the vision and mission of the NCSC and to modify, amend or repeal the same;
  - b) To approve the annual and/or supplemental budget of the NCSC as may be submitted to it by the Executive Director from time to time; and
  - c) To receive, evaluate, modify and approve project proposals on ageing and older person matters from whatever source and to coordinate and evaluate their implementation in accordance with the approved plans and programs;
- Section on **Personnel**, to read:  
The Commission shall have such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of its basic functions and such other personnel as may be assigned or detailed from other agencies of the Government. All positions, except technical and professional staff and such other positions as the Board may declare to be highly technical, policy determining or primarily confidential, shall be subject to Civil Service rules and regulations and coverage of the plans of the Wage and Position Classification Office: Provided, That, all personnel shall be entitled to the benefits and privileges normally accorded to government employees, such as retirements, GSIS insurance, leave and similar matters: Provided, further, That, in the appointment and promotion of employees, merit and efficiency shall serve as basis, and no political test or qualification shall be prescribed and considered for such appointments or promotion: Provided, finally, That the NCSC shall be the final authority on appeals on personnel matters concerning its professional and technical personnel.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUIWALO  
Secretary