

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**

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25 October 2013

**HONORABLE GUILLERMO A. ROMARATE, JR.**

Chairperson

Committee on Human Rights

House of Representatives

Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**Dear Honorable Congressman Romarate:**

This has reference to the request of the Committee on Human Rights for our Department's official position on House Bill Nos. 239, 2247 and 3146, entitled: "An Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof and for Other Purposes" authored by Representatives Rene L. Relampagos, Rufus B. Rodriguez and Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development wishes to express its full support of the bills as these recognize and protect the rights of internally displaced persons. To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are also proposing the following:

1. The Committee should consider the consolidation of HBs 239, 2247 and 3146.
2. On the Definition of Terms: Use the term "human-induced disasters" instead of "man-made disasters" to refer to human activities such as mining and logging that may trigger disasters.
3. On the Prohibited Acts of Arbitrary Internal Displacement: It should be clarified that the implementation of large-scale development projects by the government may only be considered a prohibited act of arbitrary internal displacement if:
  - a. Not justified by compelling and overriding public interest, and
  - b. Done without the necessary relocation, resettlement and reintegration support services
4. On the Rights During and After Displacement: A sub-section on "Employment and Social Protection" may be added to cover the internally displaced persons' economic activities. Minimum standards of working conditions must be

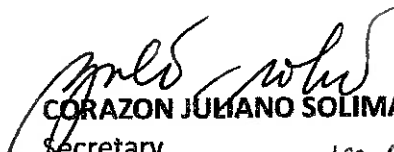
respected for certain categories or persons who are made to work during situations of armed conflict. Uncompensated or abusive forced labor should be prohibited.

5. On the Provision and Access to Basic Necessities: Psychosocial services must be part of the basic intervention package for internally displaced persons in the identified relocation areas. These services are to address the group's psychosocial and emotional needs.
6. There should be a specific provision on the proper documentation of internally displaced persons. As much as possible, existing mechanisms must be improved to easily track the status and needs of this group.

With renewed assurances of our continuing support and cooperation.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
CORAZON JULIANO SOLIMAN  
Secretary

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