



**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>

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HONORABLE JESUS N. SACDALAN

Chairperson

Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization

House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear Honorable Congressman Sacdalan:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development respectfully submits the following comments and recommendations on House Bill No. 206 entitled, "An Act Providing for A System of Determining the Minimum Food Requirements of Filipinos, Reorganizing the National Food Authority, Establishing the National Strategic Food Supply and Reserve Corporation and for Other Purposes" introduced by Representative Salvacion S. Ponce Enrile:

1. On the Statement of Policy: This section should also focus on the State's obligation to guarantee the citizens' right to adequate food.
2. On Determination of Food Requirements of Filipinos: The National Nutrition Council (NNC) and Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) should be involved in the formulation of the country's food requirements.
3. On the Responsibility of the Local Government to Submit the Provincial Food Requirement Plan: There is a need to specify the role of the city/municipality in the formulation of this plan.
4. On the Social Support and Protection for Farmers, Agricultural Producers and Fisherfolks: The implementation of agricultural scholarship programs for these sectors and their children should be coordinated with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Aside from this, the concerned government agencies should also:
 - a. Conduct regular information and education campaigns on farming patterns, seasonal index and demand and supply of different commodities for farmers and fisherfolks.
 - b. Include social protection schemes in the form of cash and in-kind support to farmers, agricultural producers and fisherfolks to enhance their risk-coping strategies and reduce the probability of household agricultural assets from being depleted.

5. On the Nation's Gratitude for Senior Farmers and Fisherfolks: Further discussions should be conducted on the proposal to provide P1,500.00 monthly pension to senior farmers and fisherfolks. To date, we already have a law with a social pension provision for senior citizens. However, due to the State's limited resources, only indigent senior citizens aged 77 years old and above are receiving the P500.00 monthly pension.

DA may also utilize the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) in identifying the recipients of the monthly social pension being referred to in this section.

6. Lastly, the DSWD adheres to the administration's policy to limit the creation of offices due to resource constraints. We believe that the strengthening of existing offices is more practical than establishing new ones.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary