



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Appropriations  
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05 July 2017

**REPRESENTATIVE KARLO A. B. NOGRALES**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear Representative Nograles:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the Draft Substitute Bill to House Bill Nos. 530 and 5188 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 bills' enhancement, we are recommending the following:

**1. Under Sec. 3 - Rural Employment Assistance Program:**

- a. To revise the first paragraph and succeeding sections where *qualified head of family or single adult member is mentioned* 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.

**2. Under Sec. 4 – Assessment to Determine Qualification for Availment of Employment Assistance:**

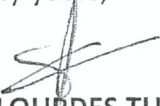
- a. The Local Social Welfare and Development Officers (LSWDOs) should conduct initial assessment of potential program beneficiaries for further validation and approval by the DSWD.

- b. 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.
3. Under **Sec. 7 – Appropriations:** To revise the first paragraph which will be read as follows:

*“The amount necessary **AND HUMAN RESOURCES NEEDED** for the implementation of the rural employment assistance program shall be included in the budget of the DSWD in the annual general appropriations act.”*

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**MARIA LOURDES TURALDE-JARABE**  
Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge