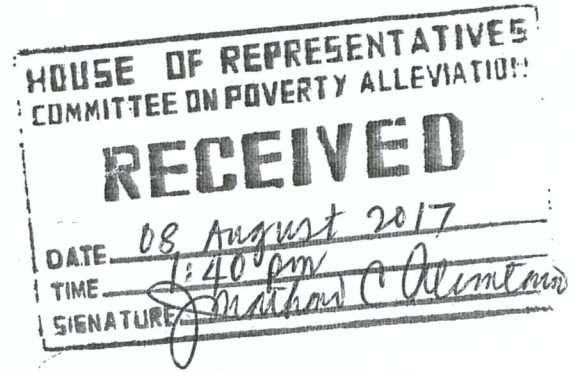


20 July 2017

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MARVIN C. NIETO
Acting Chairperson
Committee on Poverty Alleviation
House of Representatives
Quezon City



Dear **Chairperson Nieto**:

This has reference to House Bill No. 5588 or "An Act Establishing a Nationwide Geo-Tagging and Poverty Tracking System and Appropriating Funds Therefor" filed by Representative Manuel Antonio F. Zubiri.

In line with this, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shares the following comments and recommendations:

1. The bill may consider, as one of its objectives, the synchronization of existing government geo-tagging systems to monitor the progress of government programs, projects and services.
2. On Section 3 (Nationwide Geo-Tagging):
 - a. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) may be tapped to provide technical expertise in terms of tracking the progress of government programs, projects and services. NEDA, as the highest socio-economic planning body in the country, is tasked to review, evaluate and monitor various government programs as part of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP).
 - b. The Department of Agriculture (DA) may also be considered because it has implemented the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) with a geo-tagging system for project monitoring and engaging civil society organizations (CSOs) in the transparency measures being pursued by the said Department.

- c. Since there are agencies which have already implemented geo-tagging, the Committee may consider assessing how geo-tagging has made a difference in the implementation and monitoring of programs, projects and services. Identified gaps and lessons learned may be useful in enhancing the contents of the bill.
3. On Section 4 (Tagging of Poverty-Stricken Areas):
- a. Include the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as one of the agencies responsible for identifying areas mostly stricken by poverty. PSA is the source of official poverty statistics in the country and will definitely contribute in this task.
- b. It seems that poverty under this section is simply defined as that relating to physical resources including basic infrastructure, facilities and geography. Poverty goes beyond this definition to include the citizen's developmental needs and quality of life.
4. On Section 5 (Access and Website): The Department's current organizational structure does not provide for the hiring of employees at the municipal level because of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code.
5. The bill should also consider the privacy implications of geo-tagging i.e. the protection of individuals who are not willing to subject themselves to geo-tagging.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary