



14 July 2017

**Undersecretary RYAN L. ESTEVEZ**  
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

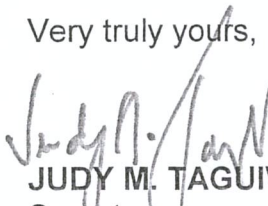
Dear **Undersecretary Estevez**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments on House Bill No. 5707 or the Rightsizing the National Government Act that aims to promote and maintain effectiveness, efficiency and economy in the government.

1. The intent of the bill to improve public service delivery to attain the country's societal and economic development goals should be balanced with the protection of workers' rights and welfare. It should be emphasized that even the Constitution indicated that the State should affirm labor as a primary social economic force.
2. There is a need to conduct thorough evaluation of existing government structures as well as competencies of their personnel before the approval of the bill and not after the fact to determine what is the actual "right size" for the bureaucracy. The evaluation should also highlight the changes to be made - whether to scale up or downsize the bureaucracy and the corresponding fund allocation.
3. Exhaustive consultations and dialogues should also be conducted with the agencies especially the prospective employees to be affected by the rightsizing. The necessary protection and safety-nets for workers regardless of employment status before, during and after the law's enactment and implementation should be considered.
4. The bill should also consider the following:
  - a. The plan for federalism which would require another reorganization if it will be approved, and
  - b. The Joint DBM, CSC, COA Circular No. 1, Series of 2017 which plans to phase out Contract of Service (COS) workers by 2019 and may result to unemployment and dislocation of workers and negatively affect the continuity of public service delivery.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**JUDY M. TAGUIWALO**  
Secretary