



21 November 2017

SENATOR SONNY M. ANGARA
 Chairperson
 Committee on Ways and Means
 Senate of the Philippines
 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

ATTENTION:

ATTY. HOMER S. ALINSUG
 Director for Legislative Affairs
 Office of Senator Sonny M. Angara

Dear **Senator Angara**:

This has reference to the request of Atty. Homer S. Alinsug for our comments on the proposed individual amendments from Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, Senators Loren Legarda, Grace Poe, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Panfilo Lacson, and Emmanuel Pacquiao to Senate Bill No. 1592 or the "Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Bill".

The following are our comments/inputs:

1. On Senate President Pimentel's amendments to the earmarking provision, Section 43:

We propose to include statutory programs implemented by DSWD among the social welfare programs whose funding may be supplemented by the tax reform bill's revenues:

- a. Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens (implementing RA 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010)
- b. RA 10868 or the Centenarians Act.

2. On Senator Legarda's proposed amendments to Section 151 of the National Internal Revenue Code (Mineral Products):

We support the proposed increase on the excise tax on coal. We recommend to revise the 2nd sentence, which will be read as follows:

"xxx Proceeds will also be allocated to programs that will offset impacts on affected and vulnerable households, communities and ecosystems, and support programs that will assist people, communities, and institutions build resilience to mitigate against climate and disaster impacts."

Received by
 Atty. Homer Alinsug
 11/21/17

3. On Senators Poe and Zubiri's Amendments to the Earmarks on the Sugar Sweetened Beverages Tax:

To revise Item No. 3 (c) (3) which will be read as follows:

"Community-Based Nutrition Programs and Supplemental Feeding for Children and Adults in Areas with High Incidence of mother, infant, and young child malnutrition."

The words "Nutrition Program" is inserted to ensure the inclusion of the education component and provision of tools to communities to make healthy drink and food choices.

4. On Senate President Pimentel's and Senator Lacson's amendments to the Value-Added Tax (VAT) System:

We fully support the provision stipulated under Sec. 109 (Exempt Transactions); letter (V) which reads:

"Sale or lease of goods and services to Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities, as provided under Republic Act Nos. 9994 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010) and 10754 (An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability), respectively."

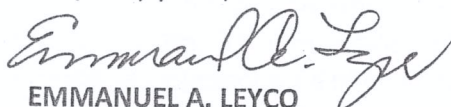
5. On Senator Pacquiao's proposal to include a Section on Excise Tax on Tobacco Products

We support the proposed inclusion of provision on increasing the excise tax on tobacco products. This is in line with the World Health Organization's (WHO) claim that "the most potent and cost-effective options for government everywhere is the simple elevation of tobacco prices by use of consumption taxes." (Source: WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative: Tobacco Control Economics – Taxation, 2017)

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



EMMANUEL A. LEYCO
Officer-in-Charge