

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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15 March 2017

Representative KAKA J. BAG-AO
Chairperson
Committee on People's Participation
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Bag-ao**,

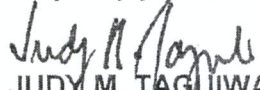
This has reference to your Committee's request for our position on House Bill No. 1598 entitled "An Act Providing For the Accreditation of Non-Government Organizations and People's Organizations Eligible to Access Government Funds and for the System of Accountability and Transparency for the Use of These Funds," authored by Representative Teddy Brawner Baguilat. The contents of the bill mirror the provisions of the General Appropriations Act for FY 2014-2016 which mandated the Department to accredit Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) before they can access government funds.


On this note, may we inform the Committee that the DSWD along with other government agencies and CSOs lobbied for the return of this accreditation function to the respective government agencies for reasons that the Department has no oversight function and lacks the expertise to assess programs/projects which do not concern social welfare and development. This effort resulted to the formulation and approval of Section 65 of the GAA for FY 2017 which allowed the decentralization of accreditation while setting certain requirements to ensure that government funds are channeled only to legitimate CSOs.

Our Department's position is to support the said decentralization.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary

Received: 
Atty. Oliver Francisco
3-16-17