



04 May 2017

REPRESENTATIVE DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.

Chairperson
Committee on Rural Development
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Ramos:**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill Nos. 2258 and 3954 entitled, "An Act Institutionalizing the Convergence Strategy For Sustainable Rural Development, Providing the Implementing Mechanisms Therefore, and For Other Purposes" which seek the institutionalization of convergence strategy towards rural development and the improvement of lives in the countryside.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we recommend the following:

1. Consolidate the bills into one.
2. Under **Definition of Terms:** To include the definition of Indigenous Peoples as defined under Section 3, letter (h) of Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997.
3. Under **Technical Working Groups of National Convergence Initiative (NCI):** To identify the specific agency that will lead each Technical Working Group.
4. Include Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Peoples' Organizations (POs) and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) as members of the proposed Convergence Initiative Administration from the national to the municipal levels.
5. Under **Creation of the National Convergence Initiative Administration (NCIA):** To review the establishment of a NCIA in relation to the existing national agencies that are already concerned in rural development. Instead of creating a new agency, we recommend strengthening the coordinating mechanisms of the existing agencies and consulting them in the formulation of the Convergence Area Development Plan.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy M. Taguwaldo', is written over the typed name.

JUDY M. TAGUWALO

Secretary