



4 May 2017

**Representative LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA**  
Chairman  
Committee on Food Security  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

**Dear Representative Cueva:**


The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the intent of House Bill Nos. 2496 and 4675 that seek to provide a system of redistributing food surplus to promote food security.

However, may we inform the Committee that there is already an existing law on donating food surplus which is Republic Act No. 9803 or "An Act to Encourage the Donation of Food for Charitable Purposes," signed on November 25, 2009, with its approved Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) signed on May 17, 2010.

On the distribution of inedible food surplus, the Committee may also want to learn from the on-going implementation of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) as the organization in-charge of highly perishable foods defined by law as "food and beverages that will spoil or deteriorate easily such as raw fruits and vegetables, fresh meat, frozen and chilled fish and fishery/aquatic products, cooked food and other processed products that require special storage as refrigeration and/or freezing."

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**JUDY M. TAGUIWALO**  
Secretary