



02 May 2018

**Representative MARIA VALENTINA G. PLAZA**

Chairperson  
Committee on People's Participation  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Plaza**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **House Bill No. 7198** or "The Filipino Volunteerism in Nation-Building (VNB) or Bayanihan sa Bagumbayan (BSB) Act" that aims to institutionalize volunteerism as a strategy in strengthening development efforts at the local level. We believe that this will complement the implementation of Republic Act No. 9418 or the Volunteer Act of 2007.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. **On Section 5, second paragraph.** Include disaster risk reduction and management as an area worthy of support.
2. **On Section 6. VNB Key National and Cooperating Agencies.** Include the Department of Health (DOH) since community, child, youth and maternal health was mentioned as a support area. DOLE may also be added since it provides community-based services to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families.
3. **On Section 10. Accreditation of VNB Partners and Stakeholders:**
  - The accreditation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should be vested to the Local Government Units (LGUs) by virtue of the Local Government Code of 1991.
  - There is a need to provide the process of accrediting CSOs operating in more than one LGU (province, city, municipality).
  - The appropriate National Government Agencies (NGAs) may also provide technical assistance and resource augmentation to the accredited CSOs pursuant to Section 67 of the General Appropriations Act of 2018.
4. **On Section 12. Incentives for VNB Volunteers.** Define the specific incentives which will form part of this package.
5. **Other.** All reference to the DSWD should be changed to the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) pursuant to the devolution of social services.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel A. Leyco', is written over a white background.

**EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**  
Officer-In-Charge