



23 March 2017

**Representative RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**

Chairperson  
Committee on Agrarian Reform  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Relampagos,**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the enactment of House Bill No. 555 or the "Genuine Agrarian Reform Act" which aims to address the inadequacies in the existing Agrarian Reform Laws including Republic Act No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and Republic Act No. 9700 or CARP Extension with Reforms. The bill is in line with the vision of the Department that all Filipinos be free from hunger and poverty and have equal access to opportunities. Further, it embodies a major social reform which may form part of the peace talks between the Government of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

May we also inform the Chairperson that the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill is one of the priority legislations of the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster (HDPRC) which our Department chairs.

To contribute to the enhancement of the bill, our inputs and comments are:

1. On Section 5. Scope and Coverage, consider a separate provision for lands of indigenous peoples being cultivated for agricultural purposes and with pending application for Certificate of Ancestral Domain (CAD) to expedite distribution and titling.
2. On Section 48. Prohibition Against Sale, Mortgage, Transfer Or Any Conveyance Or Disposition. The farmer beneficiary should be given free hand on the transfer of the awarded lands by hereditary succession.
3. On Sections 53-55. Clarify how the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is going to work with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in promoting cooperatives, integrating cooperative education program in the process of land distribution and in devising an incentives program for beneficiaries' cooperatives.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**JUDY M. TAGUIWALO**  
Secretary