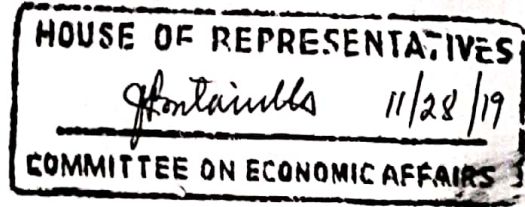


November 25, 2019

Honorable SHARON S. GARIN
Chairperson
Committee on Economic Affairs
RVM Building, House of Representatives
Quezon City



Dear Representative Garin:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports House Bill Nos. 79 and 4693, identical bills entitled: An Act Institutionalizing the National Economic and Development Authority as the Independent Economic and Planning Agency of the Philippine Government, Defining Its Functions, and Appropriating Funds Therefor, Repealing for the Purpose Executive Order No. 230 Series of 1987, Also Known as the Reorganization Act of the National Economic and Development Authority or "The National Economic and Development Authority Act", introduced by Reps. Joey Sarte Salceda and Victor Yap, respectively; and House Bill No. 1310 or "The National Economic and Development Authority Act of 2019", introduced by Rep. Weslie Gatchalian.

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

1. To consolidate the bills into one.
2. On Sec. 4 – Powers and Functions, and Duties of the NEDA of HB Nos. 79 and 4693 in relation to Sec. 4 – Powers and Functions of HBN 1310

It can be assumed that the "National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)" in this Section refers to the Agency as a whole and not the Secretariat as the Section enumerates broad powers regarding the formulation of national policy.

Paragraph (i) of Section 4 of HB Nos. 79 and 4693 provides that one of the powers of the NEDA is to "provide technical, advisory and secretariat support services to the National Economic Development Board (NEDB)", which we believe is a power that should belong to the Secretariat and not the Agency as a whole. Meanwhile, if Section 4 refers to the Agency as a whole, this would create a contradiction, since the NEDB, which is a part of the Agency under Section 3, cannot be expected to provide secretariat support services to itself.

In line with this, please enumerate the specific functions of the NEDB and the NEDA Secretariat vis-à-vis the functions of the NEDA as an independent economic and planning agency, for purposes of clarity, transparency, and accountability.

3. On HB Nos. 79 and 4693

3.1 Sec. 7 – Office of the Secretary of NEDA

To indicate the number of the highest ranking officials for the Internal Audit Service and Legislative Liaison Office.

3.2 Sec. 11 – Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries

To use the term “**discretion**” instead of “flexibility” in the 2nd paragraph which will read: *“The Secretary shall have the **discretion** to determine the respective assignments of the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries depending on the Secretary’s strategic directions and/or on emerging development trends affecting the country’s economy.”*

3.3 Sec. 12 – The National Economic Development Board

To qualify a provision similar to that of the old law be included since it provides that the President may designate additional members to the NEDB, to the effect that: *“**whenever the same is deemed necessary for the effective performance of the Board’s functions through an Administrative or Memorandum Order.**”*

3.4 Sec. 16 – NEDB Committees, letter (e): Social Development Committee

3.4.1 To include the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the National-Anti Poverty Commission (NAPC); and

3.4.2 To revise Item No. (1), which will read as: *“Formulate policies and programs that will enhance the welfare and reduce risk of Overseas Filipino Workers, elderly people, **persons with disability**, children, women, indigenous peoples, **poor and marginalized families**, farmers and fisher folks, informal urban and upland settlers.”*

3.5 Sec. 22 – Long-Term Development Plan

To include the inclusive years covering the Long-Term Development Plan.

3.6 Sec. 26 – Socio-Economic Reports (SERs) and Regional Development Reports (RDRs)

To revise the first sentence, which will read as: *“To monitor the implementation of the PDP and RDP, the NEDA shall prepare and **disseminate periodic socioeconomic reports.**”* This is to ensure that the SERs and RDRs become input to policy formulation, budgeting, and implementation of programs and projects.

3.7 Sec. 27 – ODA Portfolio Review

To revise the first sentence, which will read as: *“The NEDA shall review the status of all projects funded by ODA, **In coordination with implementing agencies...**”*

3.8 Sec. 28 – Knowledge Management

To replace the phrase “make available” with “disseminate” to make the KM process more proactive.

3.9 Sec. 35 – Technical Assistance

To include as one of the functions of NEDA is to *“provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the National Government Agencies (NGAs) in the development and updating of results matrices as well as the results-based monitoring and evaluation.”* This is to ensure the timely and proper monitoring of the national plans and programs for its efficient and effective implementation towards national development.

3.10 Sec. 37 – Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of Plans and Programs

To include the development of Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, especially the development and updating of results matrices for the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), Regional Development Plan (RDP), Philippine Investment Plan (PIP), Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) and sectoral plans and programs.

3.11 Sec. 38 – Evaluation of the Implementation of Plans and Programs

To indicate if the evaluation agenda shall have the same coverage of six (6) years, to be anchored on the PDP.

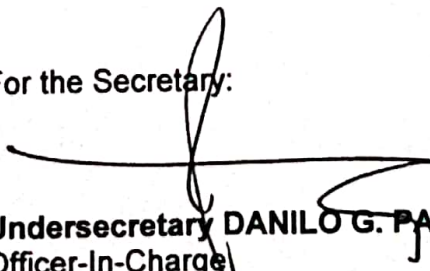
4. **Other Comment:** To include Section for “Definition of Terms” and define “National Physical Framework Plan (NPFPP)” and “Regional Physical Framework Plan (RPFPP)”.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,

ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary

For the Secretary:


Undersecretary DANILO G. PAMONAG
Officer-In-Charge
Per S.O. No. 517 s. 2019
dated November 22, 2019