



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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29 November 2016

REPRESENTATIVE CONRADO M. ESTRELLA III

Chairperson

Committee on Youth and Sports Development

3/F Annex Bldg., House of Representatives

Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Dear **Representative Estrella**:

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 2649** or the "*Magna Carta of the Out-of-School-Youth*," introduced by Representative Wes Gatchalian.

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

1. **Sec. 3 – Definitions**

On **letter (b)** – "Youth" are those belonging to the age range of 15 to 30 years old per Republic Act No. 8044, otherwise known as the "*Youth in Nation-Building Act*."

2. **Sec. 4 – The State as the Primary Duty-Bearer**

To merge letters (a) & (b) since both are geared towards protecting the OSY from discrimination as part of upholding their rights.

3. **Sec. 9 – Non-Discriminatory and Non-Derogatory Portrayal of Out-Of-School Youth in Media and Film**

The state may also partner with media enterprises, publication/broadcast/advertising agencies to ensure the non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of OSY in media and film.

4. **Sec. 11 – Government Assistance**

- ± On **letter (c) - Social Services; Social Enhancement Services**: This service should complement the existing youth welfare program of the Department which is the Unlad Kabataan Program (UKP).

UKP is geared towards the total development of the disadvantaged youth in terms of his/her socio economic, physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual development. It promotes the development of the OSYs and other disadvantaged youth to become self-reliant, economically productive and socially responsible citizens who are able to contribute to the development of their family and community.

- ± On **letter (d) - Employment**: This provision should emphasize that implementing agencies should take into consideration the out-of-school-youth's skills to determine the kind of livelihood/employment opportunities and training programs to be provided to them.

5. **Sec. 13 – Alternative Learning System**

- ± The Department of Education (DepEd) should lead the implementation of Alternative Learning Mode of Education for OSY in the barangays.
- ± To **include equivalency programs that allow OSY to obtain credentials while continuing their work or family obligations**. Since there are those who are already working, albeit in part time and often low-paying positions, it is essential to find innovative ways of providing them with relevant non-formal education linked to increasing livelihood opportunities.

6. **Sec. 28 - Out-Of-School Youth Welfare Council; Board of Directors**

Instead of creating a new Out-of-School Youth Welfare Council (OSYWC), we propose to **strengthen the National Youth Commission (NYC)** as the policy-making and coordinating body of all youth-related institutions, programs, projects and activities of the government.

7. **Sec. 31 – Out-of-School Youth Office (OSYO)**

- ± The OSYO shall be **headed by an OSY chosen from among the various organizations catering to OSY in the covered cities/municipalities**; and
- ± One of the functions of the OSYO should be, ***“to prepare reports based on the information/data given at the local and national level.”*** This is to provide substantial information in developing better policies and programs that will address the needs of OSY.

8. **Sec. 34 – Appropriations**

To provide an estimated amount of funding that will cover the implementation of programs and services for the OSYs.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary