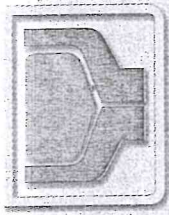


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**Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development**

IBP Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126
Telephone Nos. (632) 931-8101 to 07; Telefax (632) 931-8191
E-mail: osec@dswd.gov.ph
Website: <http://www.dswd.gov.ph>

12 December 2014

HONORABLE PAOLO BENIGNO "BAM" AQUINO IV

Chairperson
Committee on Youth
Senate of the Philippines
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

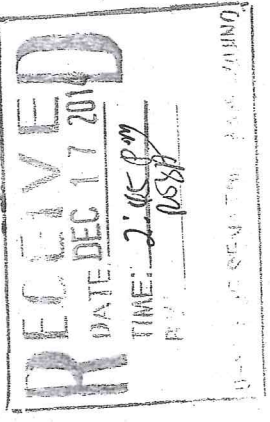
Dear Senator Aquino:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Senate Bill No. 2466, entitled: "*An Act Providing for the Protection of Children During natural Disasters and Calamities, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7610 Otherwise Known as Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act,*" introduced by the Honorable Senator and Senate Bill Nos. 2446, 2448, 2487, and 2502 or the "*Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act,*" introduced by Senators Santiago, Guingona, Marcos, and Legarda, respectively.

The version of Senate Bill Nos. 2446, 2448, 2487 and 2502 is similar with House Bill No. 5062, entitled: "*Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act,*" introduced by Rep. Susan Yap, which seeks to establish a strategic program of action for the government to immediately provide relief and protection for children during calamity, disaster, and emergency situation.

We are recommending that the five (5) proposed measures should be consolidated into one. To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are also recommending the following:

1. On Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children
 4. To include the DILG, DOH, DepEd, Local Government Units, NDRRMMC and Local DRRMC to engage in the implementation of the program for a more holistic and coordinated approach for the protection of children.
 4. Item (a): Establishment of Shelter for Displaced Children
 - To establish a "Women and Children Friendly Space", which is being implemented by the Department in evacuation camps.
 - To involve the NHA, DENR, DPWH, DILG, and LGUs to ensure delivery of needed service to victims, which is within their mandates;
 4. To engage DILG, LGUs, and community associations under items c (Stronger



2. On Unaccompanied or Separated Children

To include a sentence which will be read: *"The children shall be lodged in a licensed or accredited residential or community-based centers if the families or relatives of the children cannot be found, for proper care and protection. A child development worker or registered social worker shall provide the needed case management and intervention."*

3. On Data Gathering and Reporting

To establish a database system in every city/municipality/province to track all children affected by disasters and calamities. This could also monitor the number of death, abused, and orphaned children.

4. On Heightened Surveillance Against Child Trafficking, Child Labor, Child Prostitution and Violence on Children

✦ To install mechanisms in the community that can help protect and prevent any forms of child abuse.

✦ To include and strengthen the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), local inter-agency council against trafficking, and watch groups in the community to prevent child abuse.

5. On Training of First Responders


To include trainings for community members and children to equip them with right information before any disaster or emergency strikes that could help mitigate risks.

6. Further, to include Section for Appropriations to institutionalize the Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary