

**HONORABLE ALFRED D. VARGAS**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Social Services  
House of Representatives, Quezon City

Dear **Representative VARGAS**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) **strongly supports House Bill No. 9280 entitled**, *“An Act Institutionalizing an Installment Payment Scheme on Basic Utility Bills During Calamities, and for Other Purposes”* or the **“Three-Gives Law”**, introduced by Representative Alfred C. Delos Santos, which seeks to promote the general welfare, public safety, health and economic security of the Filipino people in times of calamity, natural or man-made.

The DSWD commends the author of this measure that will be advantageous and relevant to the Filipino people whose source of livelihood was greatly affected by disasters and the pandemic. This will help improve the quality of their lives.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, the DSWD humbly recommends the following:

1. On **Section 3. Coverage**
  - 1.1. To cover all residential electric, water, telephone and **internet bills**. It will help the people, especially the disadvantaged sectors, in easing their financial difficulties during the entire duration of a declaration of a state of calamity by: (a) declaring a moratorium on all residential utility bills; and (b) paying in three equal installments for the deferred liability, without interest, with the payments starting a month after the cessation of the declaration of the state of calamity.
  - 1.2. To include internet bill on the basic utility bills given that most of the students are home-schooled and most of the employees are on work-from-home arrangement.
2. On **Section 7. Penalty**, to increase the penalty to PhP3 Million – PhP5 Million per infraction.
3. On **Section 8. Implementation**, include the Department of Information and Communications Technology, as implementer of the Bill.
4. **Other Recommendations:**

- 4.1. To consider the Small and Medium Enterprises, as beneficiaries who are also struggling to survive in this difficult period and not only the residential units.
- 4.2. To mandate the appropriate agencies to popularize the said measure via National Telecommunications Commission's text service, social media, and other platforms to ensure that it reaches the intended beneficiaries.
- 4.3. A proviso of grievance mechanism where complaints will be lodged/addressed by the implementing public utility regulatory agencies concerned.

This is being submitted for the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,



**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**

Secretary

Date: JUN 22 2021