

HONORABLE JOEL VILLANUEVA
Chairperson
Committee on Economic Affairs
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear **Senator VILLANUEVA**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports **Senate Bill Numbered 1659** entitled, “**Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon Act**” introduced by Senator Imee R. Marcos, that seeks to create the “*Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon*” Program wherein the National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) will provide job opportunities and training, among others, for Filipinos.

To contribute to the bill’s enhancement, the DSWD respectfully recommends the following:

1. General Comments

- 1.1 To consider incorporating provisions on salary, code of conduct, recruitment, and qualifications;
- 1.2 To provide section for “Definition of Terms”, and to define, among others:
 - a) Unskilled Workers;
 - b) Skilled Workers;
 - c) Semi-skilled Workers; and
 - d) Gig-work Arrangement
- 1.3 To include a section on the Identification of Beneficiaries for the program;
- 1.4 To include a section on the scope and coverage of the proposed bill to determine the minimum and maximum extent of coverage of assistance as well as the specific nature of assistance to be provided under this proposed bill;
- 1.5 To include a section for the institutional arrangements between and among the member agencies of the “*Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon (TROPA)*” Task Force specifying the duties, functions, and responsibilities of each member agency; and

- 1.6 To consolidate SBNs 1659 and SBN 129 or “An act Institutionalizing and Expanding the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) to a National Employment Action Plan, and for Other Purposes” or the “*Trabaho Para sa Lahat ng Pilipino Act*”, authored by the Honorable Chairperson.

2. SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy

To further enhance the core principles of the proposed bill, the following inputs to the Declaration of Policy may be integrated in the final draft:

- a) The State recognizes that need to promote livelihood development and employment as a means to achieve sustainable development.
- b) The State recognizes the need to alleviate the socio-economic conditions of the poor and vulnerable, especially those individuals, groups and communities classified as poor under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction, and the Magna Carta of the Poor.
- c) The State recognizes the need to provide livelihood development and labor market interventions and stimulus to respond to the plight of the poor, vulnerable and at-risk Filipino households who are still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other economic disruptions including the high inflation rate, rising basic utility costs (water, electricity, food prices).

3. SEC. 4. Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon (TROP) Task Force

To include in this section, the following NGAs and private sector to ensure that the rights and interests of the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized workers who might be targeted under TROP will be secured and represented, to wit:

- Department of Education (DepEd)
- Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
- League of Municipalities
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Philippine Competition Commission (PCC)
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
- Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry


4. SEC. 8. Job Provision and Protection

To have permanent employees or plantilla positions considering that there would be an employer-employee relationship that would entail more protection and benefits under the law.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: MAR 17 2023