

**HONORABLE JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Local Government  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

Dear **Senator EJERCITO**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **Senate Bills Numbered 155 and 1633** or the “**21<sup>st</sup> Century School Boards Act**”, introduced by Senators Win Gatchalian and the Chair, respectively. Also, the **Senate Bills Numbered 1110 and 1190** entitled, “**An Act Expanding the Purposes and Application of the Special Education Fund (SEF) Amending for the Purpose Section 272 of Republic Act No. 7160, Otherwise Known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and for Other Purposes**”, introduced by Senators Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada and Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, respectively.

The Bills are commendable in their aim to improve the quality and promote inclusivity of education in the country by empowering local communities to take an active role in education governance thereby providing opportunities to address the unique needs and challenges of each school, which could lead to better educational outcomes for students.

To enhance the Bills further, we recommend the following:

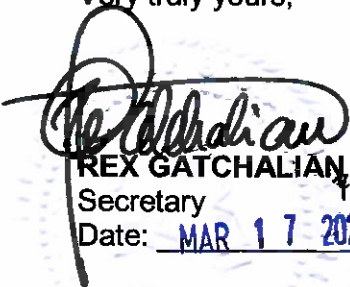
1. To consolidate all the Bills considering that Senate Bills Numbered 155 and 1633 also have provisions on the expanded use of the Special Education Fund (SEF).
2. **Sec. 3. “Sec. 99. Functions of Local School Boards” under SBNs 155 and 1633**
  - 2.1 To consider international policies and standards in formulating the vision for quality inclusive education;
  - 2.3 To ensure roles are properly specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
3. **Other Comments:**
  - 3.1 To include a representative from the Persons with Disability groups in the expanded composition of the Local School Boards to make sure that welfare

- of persons with disability vis-à-vis education is protected and promoted;
- 3.2 To include provisions on Monitoring and Evaluation in the IRR to assess the effectiveness of the composition of the Local School Board;
  - 3.3 To use gender fair language such as the use of Chairperson rather than Chairmen in crafting the final consolidated bill; and
  - 3.4 To include provisions on capacity-building of local communities and government units in education governance.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Signature of Rex Gatchalian

REX GATCHALIAN  
Secretary  
Date: MAR 17 2023