

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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Honorable TEOFISTO "TG" GUNGONA III
Chairman
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Dear Senator Gungona,

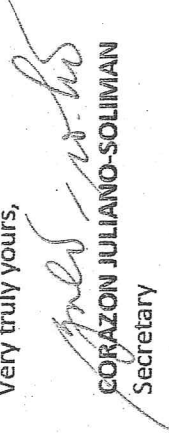
The Department of Social Welfare and Development respectfully reiterates its comments and recommendations on HBN 4744 and SBN 2368 articulated during the Committee hearing, as follows:

- a. On the Prohibited Acts of Arbitrary Internal Displacement. It should be clarified that the implementation of large-scale development projects by the government may only be considered a prohibited act of arbitrary internal displacement if
 1. Not justified by compelling and overriding public interest; and
 2. Done without the necessary relocation, resettlement and reintegration support services.
- b. On the Rights During and After Displacement. A sub-section on "Employment and Social Protection" may be added to cover the internally displaced persons' economic activities. Minimum standards of working conditions must be respected for certain categories or persons who are made to work during situations of armed conflict. Uncompensated or abusive forced labor should be prohibited.
- c. On the Provision and Access to Basic Necessities. Psycho-social services must be part of the basic intervention package for internally displaced persons in the identified relocation areas. These services are to address the group's psychosocial and emotional needs. Also to include "men" because as head of the family it has a great impact to them.
- d. There should be a specific provision on the proper documentation of internally displaced persons. As much as possible, existing mechanisms must be improved to easily track the status and needs of this group.

For the Honorable Senator's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary