



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

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23 January 2015

**HONORABLE MANUEL S. AGYAO**

Chairperson  
Committee on Rural Development  
House of Representatives  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Dear Honorable Congressman Agyao:

This has reference to the request of the Committee on Rural Development for our supplemental position paper on the Draft Unnumbered House Bill entitled "An Act Providing for Rural Employment Assistance Program and Appropriating Funds Therefor".

The Department of Social Welfare and Development poses no objection on the basic principles and parameters of the proposed bill. We believe that the Rural Employment Assistance Program is a social technology worth developing and implementing in the rural areas to pave the way for economic development in the countryside.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are also recommending the following:

1. On Sections 3 and 5 – *Length of Engagement and Rate of Assistance*: Further clarification on the 45-90 day length of engagement should be included in the bill particularly if this period only covers a single activity or several activities spread out within a given year. The DSWD, for its part, supports the latter since most of the Department's Cash for Work (CFW) projects last for an average of 11 – 15 days only.

We also believe that the minimum and maximum length of engagement per work/activity should form part of the Implementing Rules and Regulations. Further, we maintain the position that the rate of assistance should be equivalent to 75% percent of the regional prevailing daily wage rate as approved by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

2. On Section 4 – *Assessment to Determine Qualification for Availment of Employment Assistance*: The Local Social Welfare and Development Officers (LSWDOs) should conduct initial assessment of potential program beneficiaries for further validation and approval by the DSWD.

3. On Section 6 – *Types of Works and Activities*: To read as, “The Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with the Local Government Units and other Government Agencies, shall lead the identification, implementation and monitoring of works/activities under the Rural Employment Assistance Program. The works/activities for this purpose are classified as activities that will mobilize eligible poor individuals and families to finish a project in a given period. These projects may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Development, re-building/rehabilitation of agri-based livelihood assets destroyed or lost due to natural disasters (e.g. desilting of irrigation canals, development of paddy dikes, rehabilitation of water impounding, among others)
- b. Rehabilitation and or development of common service facilities, which are being shared and used by poor families as production or consolidation centers/units (e.g. post-harvest facilities, public markets etc.)
- c. Reconstruction and rehabilitation of projects which include shelter units and social service infrastructures (e.g. day care centers)
- d. Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open up access to natural assets where the former is necessary to bring out the products of poor families to the market (e.g. farm to market road, slope protection, bridges, among others)
- e. Protection of productive assets through mitigation measures such as mangrove planting/rehabilitation, tree planting and the likes.”

4. **Other Recommendations:**

- a. Reference should be poor “families” instead of “households” to cover all families in any given household.
- b. A section on Coverage may be incorporated in the draft bill to clarify who the qualified program beneficiaries are and to highlight that the program shall not distinguish between “male-headed families” and “female-headed families”.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**CORAZON JULIANO SOLIMAN**  
Secretary