

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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01 March 2017

SENATOR ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV

Chairperson

Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization

And Professional Regulation

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

Dear **Chairperson Trillanes:**

This has reference to Senate Bill No. 610 or the "Disaster Service Volunteer Leave Act."

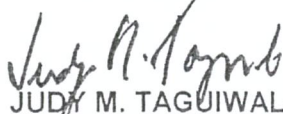
Our Department supports the bill that seeks to grant public and private employees who are also disaster service volunteers with paid leaves in exchange of their participation in specialized disaster relief services under the Philippine Red Cross.

To contribute to the enhancement of the bill, our comments and inputs are:

1. Clarify whether the disaster service volunteer leave will apply to all employees regardless of employment status. It is worth noting that even employees under Contract of Service are also actively involved in disaster response.
2. Instead of rendering services to the Philippine Red Cross alone, government employees should have the option to extend their services to the DSWD or their Local Government Units (LGUs). Further, there should also be explicit guidelines on the compensation of employees who render volunteer service in their own agencies.
3. To support the grant of disaster service volunteer leave, the Philippine Red Cross, DSWD or concerned LGU should provide a report to the sending agency/office of the employee's accomplishments in terms of rendering disaster relief services.
4. Include a provision for the crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations to lay down the mechanisms for the implementation of the Act.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary

*Recd by
Aromanie*