

28 February 2018

**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Youth  
Senate of the Philippines  
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear Chairperson Villanueva:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Senate Bill No. 686 entitled: An Act Including Responsive, Empowered and Service-Centered Youth in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in All Levels, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 10121, Otherwise Known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2000 or the “Youth Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act”, introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino, as it empowers the youth and promote their vital contribution to nation building.

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

1. **Sec. 3 – Definition of Terms**

1.1 On letter (PP), to revise the definition of “Youth” which will be read as follows:

*“Youth” – refers to persons aged fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old as provided under Republic Act No. 8044 or “The Youth in Nation Building Act.”*

1.2 On letter (QQ), to change the terms “young people” to “youth” for consistency purposes.

2. **Sec. 12 – Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO)**

2.1 On letter b (17), to change the words “Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD)” to “Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)”;

2.2 On letter (c), to include the participation of “Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (PYAP, Inc.)”, which is a duly constituted Barangay-Based Organization of the disadvantaged youth between 15-30 years old.

The PYAP was first incorporated on 29 July 1974 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under the name of Pag-asa Youth Movement, Incorporated (PYM, Inc.) and thus become the affiliate organization of the Department of Social Welfare and Development under the Unlad Kabataan Program (UKP).

3. To include a Section for the formulation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The IRR drafting should be led by the **Department of National Defense (DND)**, in coordination and consultation with the **Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)**, **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**, **Department of Science and Technology (DOST)**, **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)**, **National Youth Commission (NYC)**, **Pag-Asa Youth Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PYAP, Inc.)**, and **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** involved in disaster risk reduction and management.

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Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**  
Officer-in-Charge