

12 July 2018

Senator CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

Chairperson
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear Senator Villar,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development presents its comments and recommendations to Senate Bill No. 1756 entitled "An Act Creating the Boracay Island Council" that will ensure the preservation of the Boracay Island for purposes of sustainable development:

1. On Section 3. Creation of the Boracay Island Council: ensure the participation and representation of women in the Council. This is in line with the provision of Republic Act No. 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women which provides for the representation and participation of women in policy and decision-making bodies at the international, national and local levels. The representation of the private sector being one of the major stakeholders may also be considered.
2. On Section 4. Powers and Functions of the Council: include carrying capacity analysis and hazard mapping under item 4. Also, add as function the development of a monitoring and reporting system towards an efficient and results-based implementation of strategies and plans.

Related to this, the bill should clarify the Council's role/function vis-à-vis the current rehabilitation program of the island which is being spearheaded by the national government.

3. Incorporate specific provisions that focus on the protection of displaced workers, women and children, indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged individuals or groups during the restoration phase.
4. Clarify if there will be a local counterpart office that will serve as the implementing body and add a section for Appropriations.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



VIRGINIA N. OROGO
Acting Secretary