



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

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11 April 2014

**HONORABLE MARIA LOURDES BINAY**

Chairman  
Committee on Social Justice Welfare  
And Rural Development  
Senate  
Pasay City

**Dear Senator Binay:**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the leader in social protection supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 449 or the "Centenarian Act of 2013," authored by Senator Ralph G. Recto, that seeks to provide benefits to senior citizens who reach the age of 100 years old.

May we, however respectfully reiterate our comments which were earlier articulated during the March 5, 2014 public hearing and April 8, 2014 Technical Working Group meeting, as follows:

1. On the proposed additional 75% tax discount and exemption from the value-added-tax (VAT), the DSWD believes that such imposition is no longer necessary since centenarians already benefit from the discount privileges granted under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.
2. On the proposed grant of Cash Gift, we suggest to limit only to Filipino senior citizens residing in the Philippines.
3. The National Respect for Centenarians Day may be declared as part of the Elderly Week Celebration.
4. The requisite funds for the initial implementation should be supplemented to the regular DSWD budget of that current Fiscal Year.

For the Committee's consideration, please.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

*Florita R. Villar*

**FLORITA R. VILLAR**  
OIC-Secretary