



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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The Honorable
Senator PAOLO BENIGNO "BAM" AQUINO IV
Chairman, Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear Senator Aquino:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports the enactment of your bill, Senate Bill No. 1026, entitled: "An Act Ordaining The Promotion Of Social Enterprises To Alleviate Poverty, Establishing For The Purpose The Poverty Reduction Through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Program And Providing Incentives And Benefits Therefor."

The bill will promote the development of social enterprises (SE) with the poor as the primary stakeholders as a tool in the government's poverty reduction program. It supports the two (2) tracks of the Sustainable Livelihood Program, namely: Micro-Enterprise Development and Employment Facilitation, through organized technical assistance, access to employment opportunities and access to funds and other resources. Among those considered as SEs in Section 4 of the bill are the "community-based associations composed of poor families organized by the DSWD and the Local Government Units (LGUs) under the Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran Program..."

We, however, submit for consideration of the Committee the following recommendations to further enhance the bill:

1. Include as one of the functions of the Council on Social Enterprises the formulation of a sustainability plan especially in the aspects of the operations and maintenance of projects.
2. Provision on the collaboration efforts among the Council on SE, the concerned national government agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders, in the provision of services, technical assistance, funding/resource mobilization and monitoring to ensure the success and sustainability of the social enterprises.

3. Provide a corresponding staff from the National Center for SE Development (NCSED) of the Council on SE to undertake the supervision and monitoring of the beneficiaries of projects at the regional level.
4. Review the best practices in livelihood implementation of the various national government agencies, particularly the strong social preparation and organizational development components of the SEA-Kaunlaran Associations and SEA Kabayans in the process of legislating a national policy on social enterprises.
5. On incentives and benefits to social enterprises (SEs) employing persons with disability (PWDs), should consider measures that protect the rights and welfare of the PWDs.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary