



Honorable JESUS "BONG" C. SUNTAY  
Chairperson  
Committee on Human Rights  
RVM Building, House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Suntay**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) strongly supports **House Bill Nos. 486 and 1532** entitled: "An Act Providing a Framework for the Right to Adequate Food, and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof" or the "**Right to Adequate Food Framework Act**", introduced by Representatives Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla and Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, respectively which seek to harmonize provisions of all laws related to Filipinos' right to adequate food, clarify the scope and content of the right to adequate food, establish standards for compliance, principles, monitoring and evaluation spectrum, and penal provision for the efficient and effective implementation of the law.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, DSWD is recommending the following:

1. To consolidate the bills into one
2. **Section 2. Declaration of Policy**  
To add in paragraph 2, which will be read as: "*Adequate food is not a matter of charity, but a legal entitlement of every Filipino people regardless of class society, group, age, sex, religion, and other cultural/societal groups.*"
3. **Section 4. Normative Consent**  
To include the operationalization of the right to adequate food particularly for the affected individuals and families during and after the disaster or calamity. This is to ensure that the affected individuals and families are protected and would have access for foods and supplies on a minimal costs, since the marketplaces are non-operational due to disaster or calamity.
4. **Section 10. Targets**  
To revise the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, last sentence, which will be read as: "*...that in ten (10) years there shall be a zero incidence of hunger from the baseline recorded at the time of the passage of this Act.*"
5. **Section 13. Standards on the Amount of Food**  
Instead of the DSWD, the National Nutrition Council (NNC) shall ensure the regular, reliable, and timely delivery of a minimum amount of food

to the public, in coordination with Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of Health.

**6. Section 14. Emergencies**

- 6.1 To consider the procurement of goods during and after the disaster which is usually the bottleneck for agencies like DSWD, who are mandated to provide relief goods in the form of family food packs to all affected individuals and families for a certain period of time; and
- 6.2 To include a provision that allow agencies like DSWD to procure food supplies by not undergoing the bidding procedure as well as the option to procure other food menu, in coordination with the NNC, to ensure that they get the right nutrition from the food provided to the affected individuals and families.

**7. Other Recommendations:**

- 7.1 Ensure the land devoted to food production shall be increased to all prime agricultural land in all regions;
- 7.2 Increase the coverage of school feeding programs and the budget allocation for the marginalized and disadvantaged Filipinos;
- 7.3 Give importance to the research on agricultural and irrigation development; and
- 7.4 Harmonize the bill with Republic Act No. 9803, or the "Food Donation Act of 2009" to include the formation of planning and coordinating body spearheaded by the NNC for food recycling and donation. This is to ensure transparency and accountability when it comes to food transaction by the government and all concerned stakeholders.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**  
Secretary  
Date: MAR 05 2020