

25 September 2019

**SENATOR FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO**

Chairperson

Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate of the Philippines

Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Senator Tolentino**:

We are pleased to submit the Department's position on Senate Bill No. 65, entitled:

**“An Act Providing for the Development of Sustainable Cities and Communities in the Country, and for Other Purposes”**

This is without prejudice to the Department's submission of additional inputs.

With my best regards.

Very truly yours,

  
**RAMON M. LOPEZ**  
Secretary



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

DTI Position on

**Senate Bill No. 65**

**“An Act Providing for the Development of Sustainable Cities and Communities in the Country, and for Other Purposes”**

The Department recognizes the intent of the proposed bill to create a legal framework promoting the incorporation of sustainability in cities and communities by mandating government through the prescription of an ideal model for sustainability, guiding indicators on the transition/transformation of cities and communities, directing the national government to provide support, and authorizing local government units (LGUs) to enter into contracts relative to accomplishing sustainability.

The DTI notes that the Philippines is a party to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which include SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. SDG 11 envisions access to safe and affordable housing, access to efficient public transport, presence of green public spaces and quality sanitation, as well as improved urban planning and management that is participatory and inclusive. The *AmBisyon Natin 2040* includes similar goals to the above as it envisions the creation of vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities as well as livable cities where Filipino families can stay together by 2040.


Furthermore, we also take cognizance of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as the *“Local Government Code of 1991,”* which empowers LGUs to formulate and implement their own comprehensive land use plan subject to existing laws and in adherence to the principle of human-centric good governance. More recently, RA 11201, otherwise known as the *“Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act,”* was enacted on 12 November 2018 to strengthen the government’s thrusts on housing, human settlement, and urban development by consolidating the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).

The Department expresses its support to the passage of the proposed bill, particularly, with the espoused model and indicators, as it would qualify the country’s targets on building livable settlements. We believe that achieving sustainability would induce greater economic activity as businesses are more inclined to take hold in such livable areas. The DTI points out that since the proposed bill’s provisions are of a directive nature, they would not limit LGUs from carrying out initiatives best suited to accomplish the prescribed levels and characteristics of sustainability according to their respective circumstances.

The DTI recommends for the proposed bill to explicitly include the conduct of assessments and coordination of efforts, as further specifications to the mandated support to be provided by the national government in the sustainability endeavor. Furthermore, we also recommend that the proposed bill’s provision on empowering LGUs to enter into contracts should incorporate a stipulation for their authority to

be subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, particularly RA 9184, otherwise known as the “*Government Procurement Reform Act*,” among others.

The DTI reiterates its favorable position to the proposed bill but defers to the inputs of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

  
**Bureau of Trade and Industrial Policy Research**  
**25 September 2019**  
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