



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

20 August 2014

HON. ARSENIO M. BALISACAN

Socio-Economic Planning Secretary
National Economic and Development Authority
6/F NEDA Building, J. Escrivá Drive
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Dear Secretary Balisacan:

As the Philippine government adopts the Enhanced Social Protection Framework Strategy, we now look forward to establish a nationally defined social protection floor which aims to address the risks and vulnerabilities present among poor and marginalized people in the country.

On its pursuance, the Human Development Poverty Reduction (HDPR) Cluster approved the conduct of Assessment-Based National Dialogue (ABND) on 05 June 2014. The ABND exercise seeks to assess the overall social protection system in the Philippines by: (1) identifying policy and implementation gaps in terms of program design and coverage according to the people's needs, (2) surveying possible options in establishing a social protection floor (SPF), and (3) estimating the overall costs of SPF.

The Subcommittees on Social Protection and Informal Sector (SC-SP and SC-IS) under the National Economic and Development Authority-Social Development Committee (NEDA-SDC) will be involved in ABND. For effective facilitation, DSWD, NEDA, DOLE, NAPC and selected worker and employer groups will work together in a core group.

On 19 June 2014, the core group members discussed their tasks and responsibilities as well as the details of the ABND action plan. During the meeting, there was a consensus expecting NEDA to lead since SC-SP and SC-IS function are under the NEDA-SDC technical boards.

In line with this, we would like to formally request the NEDA to act as co-chair with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in leading the ABND core group. As co-chairs, NEDA and DOLE will be expected to facilitate and coordinate the following: (1) provision of agency-members of data, identified gaps, and proposed recommendations; (2) planning and designing of ABND process including the authorization of SC-SP and SC-IS outputs and the conduct of area-wide consultations; and (3) endorsement of the ABND report.

The remarkable reputation and profound expertise of your institution on social development will be significant in guiding the ABND initiatives towards success.

Thank you and we are looking forward to work with you.

Very truly yours,


ROSALINDA DIMAPILIO-BALDOZ
Secretary

Dept. of Labor & Employment
Office of the Secretary



017573