

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 956



Introduced by **Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
TO DEVISE A MORE LABOR-FOCUSED EMPLOYMENT
GENERATION PROGRAM IN COORDINATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
(DPWH) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT (DOLE)**

WHEREAS, the global pandemic that is COVID-19 has drastically affected both the labor force and the infrastructure programs of the Philippines; in fact, the pandemic has halted several of the “Build, Build, Build Program” projects and has compelled the Administration to review hundreds of projects to determine which shall be retained, removed, or altered¹;

WHEREAS, the several members of the House of Representatives is in the process of enacting House Bill no. 6709, otherwise known as the “COVID-19 Unemployment Reduction Economic Stimulus (CURES) Act of 2020” that establishes a special fund for the implementation of infrastructure projects in priority areas, namely: health, education, agriculture, local roads/infrastructure and livelihood²;

WHEREAS, the CURES Fund to be created under House Bill no. 6709 addresses that lack of sufficient and efficiently disbursed funds and, thus, allows the

¹ Vivencio Dizon, Presidential Adviser for Flagship Programs and Projects, as per Inquirer.net interview; “Covid-19 impact: gov’t to review build, build, build project list”; published 5 May 2020.

² Section 2, House Bill no. 6709.

nation to proceed with construction of essential infrastructure projects halted when the pandemic hit; furthermore, the CURES Act of 2020 will allow the identification of infrastructure projects that will continue to be constructed;

WHEREAS, the government shall supplement the scope and policies of the CURES Act by devising a more labor-focused employment generation program through the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);

WHEREAS, DPWH is mandated to undertake the planning of infrastructure, such as national roads and bridges, flood control, water resources projects and other public works, and the design, construction, and maintenance of national roads and bridges, and major flood control systems; it functions as the engineering and construction arm of the Government tasked to continuously develop its technology for the purpose of ensuring the safety of all infrastructure facilities and securing for all public works and highways the highest efficiency and quality in construction³;

WHEREAS, DOLE is the executive department of the Philippine Government mandated to formulate policies, implement programs and services, and serve as the policy-coordinating arm of the Executive Branch in the field of labor and employment⁴;

WHEREAS, coordination between DPWH and DOLE is not a novel concept; in fact, both departments have worked together in numerous instances, among those are the Inter-Agency Memorandum of Agreement Strengthening Coordination and Linkages to Promote the Welfare of the Construction Workers and the Growth of the Construction Industry dated 7 April 2011, and the DOLE and DPWH Joint Memorandum of Agreement on the Approval of Construction Safety and Health Program of Government Infrastructure Projects dated 15 September 2015;

WHEREAS, it is both timely and necessary for the two departments to be once again urged and empowered to devise programs for the laborers, particularly for the generation of employment in the infrastructure and construction industry;

WHEREAS, a labor-focused employment generation program means one that specifies the minimum and target number of workers to be hired as a supplement to the number of infrastructures needed to be built under the CURES Act;

³ Dpwh.gov.ph; retrieved 2 June 2020.

⁴ Dole.gov.ph; retrieved 2 June 2020.

WHEREAS, an employment generation program of this nature will ensure employment for a higher number of individuals and ensure equitable distribution of employment opportunity to as many individual laborers as possible; consequently, this will lessen the public's dependence on financial assistance and amelioration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Labor and Employment and the Committee on Public Works and Highways, to urge the National Government to devise a more labor-focused employment generation program in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Adopted,


REP. EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO
First District of Samar