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SUBJECT: DSWD THRUSTS AND PRIORITIES FOR CY 2006

Our thrusts and priorities for CY 2006 are anchored on the DSWD mandate, vision, mission and goals (VMG). It is also in line with the President's policy directions i.e. the 10-point agenda as fleshed out in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004-2010. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international and national/sectoral commitments of our country and the Department were also major considerations in its formulation. It is also our Department's response to emerging issues of the social welfare and development (SWD) sector.

In particular, the outline of these thrusts and directions was guided by the Major Final Outputs (MFOs) expected from the Department. MFOs are public goods and services that a department or agency is mandated to deliver to external clients in accordance to the government's Public Expenditure Management (PEM), specifically its Organizational Performance Indicator Framework (OPIF). Under this framework, the Department's MFOs respond to the societal outcome of "reduced poverty incidence and improved quality of life".

The DSWD MFOs, as harmonized with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), are the following:

- A. Services relating to the formulation and advocacy of policies, plans and programs;
- B. Standard setting, licensing and accreditation services;
- C. Provision of support services and technical assistance to intermediaries, and;
- D. Provision of services for community and center-based clients.

These thrusts and directions also include the Department's focus in terms of strengthening itself as an institution to be able to deliver its MFOs, and special projects wherein DSWD has a main implementing role.

A. Services Relating to the Formulation and Advocacy of Policies, Plans and Programs¹

A.1 Policy and Plans Development

1. Continuing advocacy for the passage of key priority legislations in support of SWD legislation and policy reform agenda, particularly on:

1.1 DSWD as main proponent:²

- a) Magna Carta for Social Workers and Social Welfare and Development Workers
- b) Magna Carta for Day Care Workers
- c) Bill Providing Special Protection to Internally Displaced Persons
- d) Amendment to Family Code (EO 227)

1.2 DSWD as supporting role:³

- a) Bill Providing the Persons with Disability (PWDs) the same Privileges and Benefits as Senior Citizens and Creating the Office of Persons with Disability Affairs (OPDA) Nationwide as Mechanism to Supervise Its Implementation
- b) Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System
- c) Foster Care Bill

¹ *Policy and plan formulation, as well as, program development provide directions/guidance to intermediaries and other implementers in the delivery of SWD to the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, families and communities. This is done through the establishment of databases; formulation and enhancement of policies, plans and programs; pilot testing and institutionalization.*

² *The DSWD intends to play a leading role in promoting policies beneficial to the SWD sector. The Department is in partnership with other major SWD stakeholders in crafting the Magna Carta for Social Workers and Social Welfare and Development Workers, the Magna Carta for Day Care Workers, and the Bill providing Special Protection to Internally Displaced Persons. The DSWD is determined to be continually at the forefront in the advocacy for the enactment of these bills meant to promote the rights and welfare of our SWD workers and come up with policies to protect internally displaced persons. At present, these bills are still pending at the Committee levels of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.*

The bill to amend EO 227 or the Family Code is a new advocacy of the Department to address problems encountered in some of the provisions of the Code regarding marrying age of children and disposition of properties between husband and wife.

³ *Advocacy for the passage of these bills have been ongoing. DSWD supported these bills in accordance to our mandate and emerging needs of the sector. Bills enumerated from a) to d) were bills for advocacy included in the DSWD Thrusts and Directions or CY 2005. The Magna Carta for Women and the Anti-Prostitution/Obscenity bills was included in CY 2006 Thrusts to support the advocacies made by people's organizations, legislators and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). We also included to support for this year the bills for the creation the Youth Development Council advocated by the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Magna Carta for Household Helpers initiated by then Senator Gregorio Honasan.*

- d) Amendment to RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act)
- e) Magna Carta for Women
- f) Anti-Prostitution/Obscenity
- g) Youth Development Council
- h) Magna Carta for Household Helpers

1.3 Policy dialogue/study/analysis on the following:

- a) Amendment to RA 4373 (Social Work Practice Law)
 - b) Amendments to PD 1564 (Solicitation Permit Law)
 - c) Amendments to RA 8552 (Domestic Adoption Act of 1998)
 - d) Amendments to PD 1563 (Anti-Mendicancy Law)
 - e) Amendment to RA 6972 (Barangay Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act)
 - f) Strengthening of the Philippine Disaster Management Program
 - g) Decriminalizing Women and Children engaged in Prostitution
 - h) Cybersex
2. Continuing advocacy for passage of local legislations to respond to area-based SWD issues and concerns and in consonance with SWD policy reform agenda, and international and national commitments
 3. Continue popularization and monitoring of implementation of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act by the National and Regional Coordinating and Monitoring Board
 4. Continue monitoring LGU compliance to newly enacted laws, namely: Solo Parents Act, ECCD Law, Assistance and Protection for Rape Victims, Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Law, Anti-Trafficking in Persons, Expanded Senior Citizens Law and, Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children
 5. Continuing formulation of position papers, policy papers and policy recommendations relevant to the SWD sector
 6. Continue monitoring of compliance to the following approved Joint Circulars/General Appropriations Act Provisions:
 - General Appropriations Act for FY 2005, Sec. 32 Programs/Projects Related to Senior Citizens and the Differently-Abled. *In support of the Philippine Plan of Action for Older Persons, 2005-2009, all departments, bureaus, offices, commissions, and SUCs shall set aside at least one percent (1%) of their total FY 2005 budget appropriation as cost of implementation thereof, in coordination with the DSWD;*
 - Joint Circular No. 1 s. 2003 – Monitoring of Youth Programs and Projects Implemented by Government Agencies Based on Section 28 of the General Provision, of the General Appropriations Act, FY 2003 (Republic Act No. 9206); and

- Joint Circular N. 2004-1- Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Gender and Development (GAD) Plan and Budget and Accomplishment Report to Implement the Section on Programs/Projects Related to General Appropriations Act.
7. Coordinate the formulation/updating/enhancement and monitoring of national (as lead convener) and Department operational and sectoral plans with concerned entities relative to the:
- 7.1 Formulation and Implementation⁴*
- ❑ Philippine Plan of Action for Filipino Family (2005 – 2015)
 - ❑ Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (2005 - 2010)
 - ❑ DSWD Anti-Poverty Framework
- 7.2 Implementation and Monitoring of DSWD Medium Term Development Plan:*
- ❑ Social Welfare and Development Medium Term Development Plan
 - ❑ Social Welfare and Development Investment Plan
 - ❑ DSWD Indicative Resource Generation Agenda
- 7.3 Updating and Implementation of DSWD Sectoral Plans⁵*
- ❑ Plan for Children
 - ❑ Plan for Youth
 - ❑ Gender and Development Plan
 - ❑ Plan for Persons with Disabilities
8. Continuing formulation/updating of research agenda and conduct of identified priority research study
- ❑ Perception and Practices on Physical Punishment: Form of Abuse or Discipline among Parents in Communities in CPC VI Areas
 - ❑ Comparative Study on the Cost of Care of Children in Residential Facilities vs. Community-Based Foster Care
9. Institutionalization of the use of the developed impact assessment manual for evaluating DSWD poverty reduction programs

⁴ *The DSWD plays a leading role in the drafting of inter-agency plans of action for the Filipino family and senior citizens. The DSWD Anti-Poverty Framework is being crafted in support of the Department's poverty eradication efforts and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, the framework shall be the basis of the Department in external resource accessing, whereby possible donor agencies will be guided on what sectors need assistance and what are the particular needs of the sectors as well as how the line agencies will be involved in the delivery of service.*

⁵ *These are continuing plans per sector, which the Department formulated in consonance with national and international commitments.*

10. Exercise oversight functions over NCRFW and NYC⁶
11. Monitoring enforcement and compliance of the Policy on De-institutionalization of Children

A.2 Social Technology Development

1. Continuing development/enhancement of SWD related programs in relation to newly enacted laws, namely:
 - a. Community Based Program for Domestic Perpetrators
 - b. Operationalization of the Rape Crisis Center
 - c. Operationalization of the Special Drug Education Center
 - d. Reintegration Program for Trafficked Person
 - e. International Social Welfare Services for Filipinos and other Nationals
2. Develop new social technologies to prevent problems on emerging issues such as girl child rape by boy child, boy child victim of sexual abuse, children as victimized by pedophilia and cyber pornography, child trafficking, and children in armed conflict situation
 - a. Crisis Counseling for Trafficked Victims
 - b. Character Building Program
 - c. Rehabilitation Program for Street Children Recovering from Substance Abuse
 - d. Case Management & Processing Mechanism for Children in Need of Special Protection
 - e. Group Home for Older Street Children
 - f. Halfway Home for Children in Conflict with the Law
 - g. Strengthening Government Mechanism in Mainstreaming Gender in Reproductive Health and Anti-VAW
3. Continuing development and enhancement of program geared towards strengthening family roles and responsibilities and family values
 - a. Enhanced Role of Paternal Abilities
4. Continuing pilot testing of Social Technologies for Children, Youth, Women, Older Persons and PWDs, Families and Communities, as follows:
 - a. Comprehensive Programs for Internally Displaced Communities
 - b. A Resettlement Project for Badjau Families
 - c. Group Home for OP/PWDs

⁶ Executive Orders 424 and 425 directs the DSWD to exercise oversight functions over the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), respectively.

- d. Foster Care Program for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities
 - e. Information Communication Technology – Sharing Computer Access Locally and Abroad (ICT-SCALA)
5. Impact evaluation of pilot-tested projects, namely:⁷
- ❑ Character Building Program
 - ❑ ICT-SCALA
 - ❑ Comprehensive Program for Solo Parents
 - ❑ Intergenerational Program for OPs
 - ❑ Tuloy Aral Walang Sagabal (TAWAG) project
 - ❑ Family Violence Prevention Program
 - ❑ Family Life Resource Center
 - ❑ Special Drug Education Center
 - ❑ Child Investigative Studio
 - ❑ Aruga at Kalinga

B. Standards and Compliance⁸

1. Accelerate registration, licensing and accreditation of SWD institutions, agencies and implementers
2. Enhance monitoring system for licensed and accredited SWD agencies, public solicitations and duty free entry
3. Institutionalize partnerships that would strengthen licensing, accreditation and monitoring functions among intermediaries
4. Continuing development of standards for SWD local delivery system
 - Infusing the ECCD in the day care service standards
5. Continue formulation of standards for different modes of service delivery such as: community, center, and street-based
6. Document best practices of accredited SWD agencies, both public and private
7. Intensify advocacy on SWD standard for implementors and donors/sponsors in coordination with the Social Marketing Service
8. Review standards/guidelines on Public Solicitation of SWD NGOs

⁷ *These projects were pilot-tested and are now at the point where it requires impact evaluation.*

⁸ *Licensing and accreditation of individuals, agencies and organizations engaged in SWD services is one of the key functions of the Department. These are implemented through standards setting, monitoring enforcement and compliance of standards, rules and regulations and sanctions. The Department provides technical assistance to social work agencies that are not yet able to meet the minimum requirements, thus helping them towards implementing quality services.*

9. Enhance competencies of National and Field Office Review Committees in handling cases of complaints involving SWD agencies

C. Provision of Support Services and Technical Assistance to Intermediaries⁹

1. Strengthen partnership and collaboration with intermediaries and stakeholders of the Social Welfare and Development Learning Network providing relevant and quality capacity building programs in the enhancement of the capacity of organizations, groups, and individuals engaged in poverty alleviation and social protection. Among others, the following shall be undertaken:
 - Update and maintain a data bank on DSWD-SWD Learning Network
 - Reactivate and strengthen a functional and accessible SWD Learning Network
2. Augmentation and Support Services to Intermediaries on SWD Implementation of:
 - Assistance to Victims of Disasters and Calamities
 - Assistance to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Older Persons (OPs)
 - Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Especially Difficult Circumstances
3. Continuing capacity-building for community and center-based social workers/local implementors/intermediaries on:¹⁰
 - Rehabilitation of youth offenders and perpetrators of domestic violence
 - Provision of psychosocial interventions for abused children, rape victims, victims of armed conflict
 - Community organizing for poverty alleviation
 - Family and community disaster preparedness
 - Updating and utilization of local SWD situationer
 - Preparation/formulation of local SWD plans
 - Barangay level SWD implementation
 - Skills enhancement for center houseparents on para-counselling, development needs of children
 - Managing the local community and center/institutions
 - Disaster management program
 - SEA-Kaunlaran program as part of the transition plan of localization

⁹ *Technical assistance and capability building sessions are provided to DSWD intermediaries to empower them to plan, generate resources, deliver quality SWD services and monitor and evaluate SWD programs/projects/activities for the disadvantaged sectors.*

¹⁰ *Devolution of SWD functions requires DSWD to continually build the capacity of direct service workers in implementing community and center-based SWD interventions at the local level. These capacity-building activities are responses to training needs of direct service workers.*

4. Strengthen capacities of LGUs on the delivery of services for street children, OSY, solo parents, on Drug Abuse Prevention, Anti-Trafficking, provision half way house services for the reintegration and after care program of reformed youth offenders, handling court related cases, independent living services and other SWD services that the LGUs are implementing
5. Strengthening the capability of partner LGUs along project development and external resource accessing
6. Intensify training and capability building program to increase women's opportunity for self-employment under a livelihood convergence strategy, particularly in competitive, high-value adding industries and agricultural activities
7. Pursue and expand livelihood convergence projects/models through expenditures on areas with the greatest impact to the poor and vulnerable sectors in terms of increased income and sustained livelihood such as through the Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran Program¹¹
8. Continue upscaling of economic/livelihood activities, community-based SEA-K program and its preparation for localization
9. Intensify the TAWAG, including children with disabilities in day care centers and expanding special education (SPED) program with the help of the private sector
10. Mainstreaming of Early Childhood Development (ECD) gains and practices

D. Provision of Services for Community and Center Based Clients¹²

1. Continuing implementation of community and center based programs and projects
 - Protection and Rehabilitation Services for Center-Based constituents such as children, youth, women, PWDs and OPs
2. Enhance productivity and employability of the employable vulnerable sector (i.e. family heads, women, PWD and youth) through training, capability building and special employment program

¹¹ The SEA-K Program is DSWD's concretization of one of the goals of the current MTPDP which is to provide more livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities for the poor.

¹² Direct service delivery is no longer the main function of DSWD. However, it is still tasked to implement social protection programs and services for the vulnerable and disadvantaged sector at both the community and center-based settings as per EO 221.

3. Manage DSWD Centers and Institutions as centers of excellence. Towards this end, efforts shall be undertaken to improve structure and management of centers and institutions such as upgrading of case management methodologies, computerized record keeping, resource generation efforts which shall focus on strategic partnership with private sector and civic groups. Capacity building programs for women victims to include skills production, marketing and managing enterprises of products/businesses and; productivity improvement adjusted to the peculiar needs of the older persons¹³

E. Institutional Strengthening

1. Operationalization of the Department CORPLAN consistent with approved RSP¹⁴
2. Re-organize and strengthen the following consistent with approved RSP:
 - a. Human Resource Management and Development Service
 - b. Management Information Systems Service
 - c. Internal Audit Service
 - d. Social Marketing Service
3. Continuing efforts to intensify and systematize resource generation. This shall include preparation of full-blown proposals and the necessary project negotiation as indicated at the MTPIP and strengthening network and partnership on AHON Bayan
4. Enhancement of Career Development and Management System
5. Establish a nurturing community of professionals working for the growth of its members through the establishment of a pool of specialists on SWD programs and services. ¹⁵

¹³ This was based from the MTPDP and then DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman's statement.

¹⁴The DSWD Corporate Plan (CORPLAN) reflects the functional and organizational shift in focus of the Department (from being a direct service provider to a technical assistance provider) of the DSWD Rationalization and Streamlining Plan (RSP) which was formulated in accordance to Executive Order No. 15. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) approved this RSP on January 29, 2005 and EO 15 states that the RSP is effective immediately upon its approval by the DBM. Hence, it becomes imperative for the Department to operationalize, reorganize and strengthen its organization consistent with the approved RSP.

¹⁵ The DSWD should take the lead in providing technical assistance to members of the SWD community. There are specialists in major SWD sectors such as those who specialize in programs and services for the family, community, child and youth, women, elderly and persons with disabilities. Identifying and pooling these specialists would facilitate easy access and maximization of available human resources for capability building purposes.

6. Strengthen capability of internal technical staff to respond to the needs of all stakeholders and claimholders
7. Leverage the use of information and communication technology (ICT) towards the improvement of management operations, program/project implementation and service delivery
8. Improve existing frontline services to prevent children from being victimized, abandoned and neglected thru computerized transactions on travel clearance, adoption and foster care services
9. Strengthen advocacy and social marketing efforts on SWD issues/concerns, legislative agenda, new laws/program policies/plans/new technologies
10. Continuing improvement in work and financial planning; records management; asset management and procurement system, and; strengthening of Financial and Management System in the Field Offices
11. Continuing roll-out of E-NGAS to Field Offices
12. Continuing implementation and monitoring compliance of the Integrity Development Action Plans (IDAPs)¹⁶
13. Strengthen the monitoring of re-entry plans of trained staff to insure replication of training and maximization of training cost.¹⁷

F. Special Projects

❖ Foreign Assisted Project

1. Full implementation and institutionalization of the KALAH-CIDSS Program¹⁸
2. Implementation of Access to Justice for the Poor Program
3. Implementation of *Poder y Prosperidad del Comunidad* (Phase I and II)
4. AEI Community Driven Development Intervention in Quezon

¹⁶ *These are strategies to combat graft and corruption in the bureaucracy.*

¹⁷ *The DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 32, Series 2004, established the Institutional Development Framework of the Department. Among others, the Institutional Development Division was given the responsibility to monitor the re-entry plans of trained staff. Prior to this, monitoring of the re-entry plans was not consciously nor consistently undertaken.*

¹⁸ *The KALAH-CIDSS program is a special project of the DSWD contributing significantly to the realization of the Department's vision of a society where the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged families and communities are empowered for an improved quality of life. The program is also a strategy for community empowerment and poverty reduction mentioned in the Empowerment section of the current MTPDP and as reflected too in the Social Welfare and Development Medium Term Development Plan (2005-2010).*

5. UNFPA Assisted Strengthening Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Mechanism
6. Mainstreaming Program for Badjao Families: A Resettlement Village Project
7. GGP Assisted KALAHI-CIDSS Sub-projects

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