DAVAO City –With the theme *Nakatatanda: Gabay, Tulay, Kaagapay at Bantay Tungo sa Kaunl aran,*
the Department of Social Welfare and
Development spearheads the celebration of the Elderly Filipino Week from October 1-7.

DSWD focal on older persons Lorela M. Ramos said slated activities for the weeklong observance include a Forum on RA 9994 [Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010] in Panabo City with Barangay Federations presidents and establishment owners; and a Socio-Cultural and Sportsfest in Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and Davao City. Other municipalities are also currently organizing a Forum on RA 9994 in coordination with the regional offices of DSWD, DOH and DTI.

Meanwhile, a Regional Orientation on the DSWD Core Social Protection Programs and the Movement of Association for Sustainable Action (MASA) in the four provinces will be participated by Provincial/City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices and all City/Municipal Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines (FSCAP).

Recognizing the role of people's organization and who are bonafide associations of citizens in cities and municipalities with 'demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest,' the Department is taking strides of convening the sectoral clientele group; the Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina (KALIPI), the Pag-Asa Youth Movement (PYA), the Federation of Day Care Workers of the Philippines, the Federation of Persons with Disabilities' and the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations (FSCAP) as partners in development which are also collectively known as the Movement of Associations for Sustainable Action (MASA).

With the new Social Reform Agenda of the Department of providing "Better, Faster and Smarter" services to its clientele, the MASA will assist in the implementation of the department's Core Social Protection Programs (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, Self-Employment Assistance, KALAHI-CIDSS) along the suggested areas of engagement: *Bantay*, *Gabay, Tulay* and
Kaagapay.
This partnership may be done in any of the following ways: 1] Bantay - projects and activities

geared towards fighting corruption; 2] Gabay -a mechanism for extending technical assistance; 3] Kaagapay -anti-poverty projects and activities; or 4] Tulay -facilitating action, feedback and monitoring. DSWD/TAD/Carmela Cadigal-Duron