

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



12 MAR -6 8:41

S E N A T E

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Senate Resolution No. 740

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UTILIZATION OF FOREIGN AID FOR POST-SENDONG RELIEF, RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS TO ENSURE AID EFFECTIVENESS IN IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF TROPICAL STORM SENDONG VICTIMS

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm *Sendong* (Washi), which struck Visayas and Mindanao in December 2011, was the most destructive tropical storm to enter the country last year, affecting over one million people in 851 barangays, 59 municipalities, 8 cities in 13 provinces of Regions VI, VII, IX, X, XI, CARAGA and ARMM;

WHEREAS, President Benigno Aquino III, on 20th of December 2011, issued Presidential Proclamation No. 303-2011, declaring a State of National Calamity, particularly in Regions VII, IX, X, XI and CARAGA;

WHEREAS, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (NDRRMC) issued Memorandum No. 13-2011 entitled "*TS Sendong One Stop Shop Facility for the Acceptance and Processing of Foreign Donations*", thereby establishing a "One-Stop-Shop" (OSS) in order to facilitate the quick movement of assistance and relief operations to the devastated communities;

WHEREAS, under the same memorandum, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is tasked to "convey the humanitarian and relief needs identified by the line agencies of the Philippine Government to the international community" with the NDRRMC serving as the "information hub for all transactions between and among donors, consignee, and recipients of foreign and local donations";

WHEREAS, the United Nations, thru the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, on 22th December 2011, issued an appeal to raise US\$ 28.6 Million in order "to support the Government of the Philippines to respond to the serious humanitarian needs caused by the devastating Tropical Storm Sendong in Northern Mindanao";

WHEREAS, the amount to be generated by this appeal is earmarked for the funding of the Philippines (Mindanao) Humanitarian Action Plan of 2012 which targets to provide clean water for drinking and bathing, food, emergency shelter, and essential household items to 471,000 worst-affected people in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities for three months;

WHEREAS, in 30 December 2011, the World Bank announced the immediate release of

US\$500 Million from the Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan with Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat-DDO), to assist the Philippine government's recovery and reconstruction efforts;

WHEREAS, on 21 January 2012, the DFA reported that, apart from the US\$ 7.4 Million raised by the UN following its appeal for international humanitarian assistance, the Philippines also received around US\$ 25 Million cash donations from other countries and foreign communities;

WHEREAS, recalling that despite the huge amount of foreign aid that poured in for tropical storm *Ondoy* victims, with US\$ 409.5 million worth of direct loans, more than a thousand families still lived in evacuation centers a year after the disaster, raising issues on how post-disaster funds, including foreign assistance, were utilized;

WHEREAS, strict monitoring and transparent accounting of aid for post-*Sendong* efforts should be undertaken to avoid misallocation and misuse of resources;

WHEREAS, as the country enters the recovery phase, relocation in safer ground and rebuilding of new houses for affected families, and specific projects can be river basin-wide programs on flood management, strengthening of local disaster risk reduction and management councils, preparedness, early warning communications, and social support to communities must be considered in the allocation of post-disaster funds;

WHEREAS, the NDRRMC, in coordination with the DFA and Department of Finance, should efficiently coordinate reconstruction efforts of various donors and manage resources that have been received by the national government, a responsibility to the calamity victims as well as to our partners in the international community;

WHEREAS, there is a need to determine the total amount and allocation of foreign aid received for post-*Sendong* efforts, the implementing agencies, status of utilization, number of beneficiaries and other measureable accomplishments from the usage of foreign aid;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the utilization of foreign aid for post-*Sendong* relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts to ensure aid effectiveness in improving the welfare of tropical storm *Sendong* victims.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator