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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 2505

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE DE VENECIA, JR., ANDAYA (R.),
DAZA, BONDOC, AQUINO (H.), DIAZ (A.), DIAZ (R.),
DOMINGO, FAJARDO, LAZATIN, LINGAD, LORENZO,
NATIVIDAD, PANCHO, SARMIENTO (A.), SILVERIO, VIOLAGO,
BELMONTE, JR., OCAMPO, COJUANGCO, JR., GORDON AND
YAP (J.)

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION
PESOS FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT AND
REHABILITATION SERVICES OF THE VICTIMS AND
AREAS AFFECTED, AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF NEW INFRASTRUCTURE OR REPAIR AND
RECONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE
DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE ERUPTION OF
MT. PINATUBO

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

- 1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the
2 policy of the State to assist the victims in the communities damaged
3 or destroyed or adversely affected by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo
4 and its aftereffects by extending to them adequate aid, relief,
5 resettlement and rehabilitation services and by undertaking

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1 construction or repair and reconstruction of infrastructure to the
2 end that life may return to normal at the earliest possible time.

3 Countless persons and organizations here and abroad, as well
4 as foreign governments, have spontaneously and unselfishly con-
5 tributed their time, effort and money, at the risk of their lives, to
6 the rescue and relief efforts. The State acknowledges such acts of
7 compassion and humanity.

8 SEC. 2. *Statement of Objectives and Guidelines.* - This Act is
9 intended to help the victims in the communities which suffered loss
10 or damage from the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and its aftereffects.
11 It aims to provide additional funds for the immediate relief of
12 the victims, to establish resettlement centers, homesites and
13 townsites for displaced families, to provide livelihood and
14 employment opportunities, to repair and reconstruct government
15 infrastructure damaged or destroyed by said disaster and to
16 construct new infrastructure facilities to prevent further loss of lives
17 or damage to property.

18 The term "victims" when used for purposes of this Act refers
19 to persons who were displaced, sustained injuries or died as a result
20 of the aforementioned eruption and its aftermath. It also includes
21 those whose homes or properties have been damaged or destroyed,

1 or are threatened to be requiring aid, relief, resettlement and
 2 rehabilitation services. In case of death, the heirs of the deceased
 3 victims shall be entitled to the aid, relief, resettlement and
 4 rehabilitation services granted herein.

5 **SEC. 3. Guidelines in the Allocation of Funds.** - Government
 6 funds and resources herein appropriated shall be spent judiciously
 7 and effectively in consonance with the principle of providing the
 8 greatest good for the greatest number. Accordingly, the following
 9 guidelines shall be observed in allocating the funds made available
 10 under this Act:

11 (a) In the construction or repair and reconstruction of
 12 government infrastructure and facilities, priority shall be given to
 13 resettlement centers, homesites and townsites, and such other
 14 projects as river system and drainage works, roads, bridges,
 15 communication and power lines, hospitals, schoolbuildings,
 16 irrigation and water systems, and the like;

17 (b) Aid, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation services shall
 18 be equitably extended to all victims, irrespective of political or party
 19 affiliation, sex, creed, religious belief, or ethnic origin, giving
 20 emphasis to livelihood and employment opportunities;

21 (c) Funds shall be allocated for the acquisition by

1 appropriate government agencies of special equipment, such as
2 amphibians, and other equipment designed for use in the affected
3 areas;

4 (d) In no case shall any portion of the sum herein
5 appropriated shall be used in payment of any subsisting obligation
6 contracted before the passage of this Act; and

7 (e) Any person who takes advantage of the calamity for
8 undue personal and private gain such as profiting in buying and
9 selling or misrepresenting the source of relief goods, submitting
10 false or inflated damage reports and other illegal acts shall be
11 prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

12 **SEC. 4. Appropriations Clause.** - The sum of Ten billion
13 pesos (P 10,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds
14 in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, including the
15 amount of One billion pesos (P 1,000,000,000.00) from the Oil Price
16 Stabilization Fund (OPSF) which is hereby transferred to the
17 General Fund.

18 **SEC. 5. Replenishment Scheme.** - Funds drawn from the
19 treasury for disbursements made under this Act shall be replenished
20 by proceeds from loans, grants or contributions under the
21 Philippine Assistance Program, proceeds and the sale of real

1 property of the national government, and revenue from tax
2 enhancement measures.

3 **SEC. 6. Determination of Beneficiaries and Projects.** - The
4 President or his authorized representative in consultation with
5 national and local officials of the calamity areas, both elective and
6 appointive, as well as accredited NGOs shall determine and approve
7 the beneficiaries of aid, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation
8 services, and determine and approve on the basis of actual damage,
9 certified by the department, office or agency concerned, the
10 government infrastructure projects which shall be financed from
11 the appropriation authorized herein. The information concerning
12 such beneficiaries and projects shall be disseminated in the affected
13 areas.

14 **SEC. 7. Implementation.** - The survey, construction or repair
15 and reconstruction of damaged or destroyed or required or
16 alternate government infrastructure and facilities shall be
17 undertaken by the implementing government agencies concerned by
18 public bidding, administration or through negotiated contracts,
19 subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
20 However, in case of negotiated contracts, only duly prequalified and
21 duly licensed contractors as of the approval of this Act can be

1 awarded such contracts. Whenever suitable labor based technology
2 shall be used in the implementation of the projects.

3 With respect to aid, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation
4 services to individual beneficiaries, the President may seek the
5 assistance and use the services of the Philippine National Red Cross
6 and all other relief agencies and volunteer-organizations with
7 proven record in providing relief work.

8 SEC. 8. *Obligation of Funds.* - Funds herein appropriated
9 shall be available for the incurrence of obligations until fully
10 exhausted.

11 SEC. 9. *Preference to Local Residents.* - Residents in the
12 affected areas, especially the victims, shall be given preference in
13 hiring or employment in the construction or repair and
14 reconstruction of damaged or destroyed government infrastructure
15 and facilities and other labor requirements in all other projects.

16 SEC. 10. *Report to Congress.* - Through the respective over-
17 sight committee of each chamber, the President shall submit to
18 Congress a detailed quarterly report on the funds allocated indicat-
19 ing the amount released, obligated and disbursed for:

20 (a) Aid, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation services,
21 including the list of names of approved individual beneficiaries and

1 evaluation of the effectiveness of the delivery system of such aid,
2 relief, resettlement and rehabilitation services; and

3 (b) Construction or repair and reconstruction of
4 infrastructure projects, including the list of projects being financed
5 and the accomplishments for the expended appropriations,
6 including the percentage of completion.

7 SEC. 11. *Rules and Regulations.* - The President shall within
8 seven days from the approval of this Act issue the necessary rules
9 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

10 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, decree, rules and
11 regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the
12 provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed.

13 SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect upon
14 its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
15 circulation.

Approved,

Nyflis (SD)