

Congress of the Philippines)
Ninth Congress)
First Regular Session)

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
RECEIVED
SEP 14 1992
3:20 pm

SENATE
S. No. 744

Introduced by Senators Shahani, Guingona, Angara,
Macapagal-Arroyo

EXPLANATORY NOTE


This bill seeks to appropriate the sum of Ten Billion Pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) for the aid, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation services to persons and areas affected and for the construction of new infrastructures or repair and reconstruction of infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the lahar caused by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in Central Luzon.

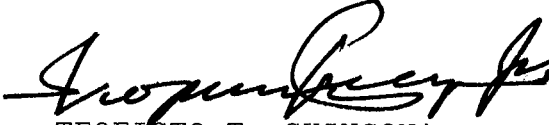
The eruption of Mount Pinatubo cut a wide swath of destruction in several provinces in Central Luzon, killing an undetermined number of persons, leaving many families homeless, toppling communication lines and flooding roads and causing damages to government infrastructures, properties and crops worth billions of pesos. As of September 9, 1992, there were 157,305 families or 773,386 persons affected by rains and lahar flows triggered by four successive typhoons since Mid-August. These displaced victims are overcrowding evacuation areas which could cause an outbreak of diarrhea and other similar diseases due to poor sanitary conditions in these centers.

There is, therefore, an urgent need for the government to extend immediate relief and aid to lahar-devastated provinces in Central Luzon. It is imperative, in the interest of social justice, to extend a helping hand to the victims of this calamity. The proposed appropriation will obviate the possible paralyzation of public services in said areas. The passaged of this bill will surely lessen the impact of Mt. Pinatubo's wrath on the residents of Central Luzon and make them feel that they have not been neglected by the government, most especially during these trying times.

In view of the foregoing consideration, approval of this bill is urgently requested.

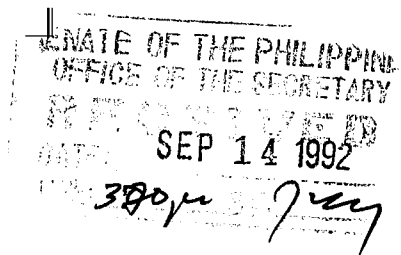

LETICIA RAMOS-SHAHANI


EDGARDO J. ANGARA


TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA


GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Congress of the Philippines)
Ninth Congress)
First Regular Session)



S E N A T E

S. No. 744

Introduced by Senators Shahani, Guingona, Angara,
Macapagal-Arroyo

AN ACT

APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PERSONS AND AREAS AFFECTED AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW INFRASTRUCTURES 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:

SECTION 1. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to help and assist the victims or their legal heirs in those communities heavily damaged by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo by extending to them adequate aid, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation services to the end that life may return to normal at the earliest possible time.

SEC. 2. **Statement of Objectives and Guidelines.** - This Act is intended to help the victims or their legal heirs in those communities which suffered heavy loss or damages from the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and its after effects. While the extent of the damage cannot be compensated to the fullest, this Act aims to provide initial funds for the immediate relief of the victims or their legal heirs, to establish adequate resettlement centers, homesites and townsites for displaced families, to provide livelihood and employment opportunities, to repair and reconstruct government infrastructure damaged or destroyed by said disaster and to

construct new infrastructure facilities to prevent further loss of lives or damage to property.

The term "victims" when used for the purposes of this Act refers to individuals who sustained serious injuries or suffered death in the family as a result of the aforementioned eruption. It also includes individuals whose homes have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable requiring aid in the form of accomodation in temporary shelters and/or food sustenance while they are rebuilding their dwelling places.

SEC. 3. Guidelines in the Allocation of Funds. -

Government funds and resources herein appropriated shall be spent judiciously and effectively, in consonance with the principle of providing the greatest good for the greatest number. Accordingly, the following guidelines shall be taken into consideration in allocating the funds made available under this Act.

(1) In the repair and reconstruction of government infrastructure and facilities, priority shall be given to such projects as roads, bridges, and other means of communication, hospitals, school buildings, irrigation systems, canals and water systems, municipal buildings, public markets, and the like;

(2) Money or supplies intended for aid or relief to private beneficiaries shall be equitably extended to all deserving victims of the eruption, irrespective of political or party affiliation, sex, creed, religious belief, or ethnic origin; and

(3) Any person who takes advantage of the calamity for undue personal and private gain, such as trafficking in buying and selling or misrepresenting the source of relief goods, submitting false or inflated damaged reports, and other

6

illegal acts shall be prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

SEC. 4. **Appropriations Clause.** - The sum of Ten Billion Pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 5. **Priority Assistance and Projects.** - The President, in consultation with national and local officials of the calamity areas, both elective and appointive, shall within a period of six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, determine and approve the beneficiaries of aid and relief services, and determine and approve on the basis of actual damage certified by the department, office or agency concerned the government infrastructure projects which shall be financed from the appropriation authorized herein. The information concerning such projects shall be disseminated in the affected areas.

SEC. 6. **Implementation.** - The survey, repair and reconstruction of damaged or destroyed government infrastructure and facilities shall be undertaken by the implementing government agencies concerned by public bidding, administration or through negotiated contracts, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations. However, in case of negotiated contracts, only duly prequalified and duly licensed contractors as of the approval of this Act can be awarded the negotiated contracts.

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

SEC. 7. **Obligation of Funds.** - Funds herein appropriated shall be available for the incurrence of obligations until enhanced.

SEC. 8. **Preference to Local Residents.** - Residents in the affected areas, especially the victims, shall be given preference in hiring or employment of manpower in the repair or reconstruction of damaged or destroyed government infrastructure and facilities.

SEC. 9. **Report to Congress.** - The President shall submit to Congress a quarterly report on the funds allocated for aid or relief services and funds allocated for the repair and reconstruction of vital and essential infrastructure projects, the list of such infrastructure projects which shall be financed, the list of names of approved individual beneficiaries, the purposes for which the appropriations were utilized and the accomplishments for the expended appropriations, including the percentage of completion of repair and reconstruction projects, as well as an evaluation of the effectiveness of the delivery system of relief services.

SEC. 10. **Rules and Regulations.** - The President shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within fifteen (15) days from the approval of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall be published in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation for their effectivity.

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

SEC. 12. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,