



November 13, 2019

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Honorable GRACE POE
Chairperson
Committee on Public Services
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear Senator Poe:


The Department of Social Welfare and Development respectfully submits its comments and recommendations on **Senate Bill No. 1151**, entitled: "An Act Providing for Free Freight Services in the Transportation of Relief Goods to Calamity-Stricken Areas" or the "**Relief Goods Free Transportation Act**," authored by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid.

To contribute to the enhancement of the bill, we recommend the following:

1. **Section 2. Definition of Terms:** On Item c: Donated Goods or Articles: Should be defined as, "food and non-food items **responsive to any situation affecting** disadvantaged or distressed individuals and families **in order to meet their basic needs**, given in kind by any individual or group entities."
2. **Section 6. Release of Donated Relief Goods and Articles:** Pursuant to Section 800 (m) of Republic Act No. 10683 or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act," it is not only DSWD that certifies the free distribution of donated goods among the needy. This may also be done by including other agencies like the Department of Education (DepEd) or the Department of Health (DOH), as the case may be.
3. To consider the exemption from payment of toll fees in the transportation of relief goods.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary
Date _____