

06 October 2016

**REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK F. ABUEG**

Chairperson

Committee on Social Services

RVM Building, House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Representative Abueg**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 2306 entitled, "An Act Institutionalizing a System of Effective Fund Administration of Cash Donations or Humanitarian Aid from Local or Foreign Donors and Sponsors During Natural or Man-Made Disasters, Crises, Tragedies, or Emergencies and for Other Purposes" or the "Disasters in the Philippines Act of 2016", introduced by Representative Winston "Winnie" Castelo, which aims to institutionalize an effective system of fund administration of cash donations or humanitarian aid from local or foreign donors and sponsors for victims of disasters, crises, tragedies and emergencies.

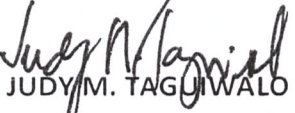
To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. Under **Section 1**: To rename the short title of this Act to "Administration of Local and Foreign Donation Act" to be consistent with the title of the House Bill and its provisions.
2. Under **Section 3 – Rationale**
  - a. **Item 1**: The Land Bank of the Philippines shall be the authorized bank tasked to receive cash donations or humanitarian aid.
  - b. **Item 3**: Relief agencies, humanitarian organizations, volunteer groups and civil society organizations that will receive donations in kind from local or foreign donors must be accredited with or duly recognized by the Regional Offices of the DSWD or their local counterparts as far as practicable.

We have also attached a brief report regarding our current policies, structure, coordination mechanisms and programs for the administration and management of funds coming from national appropriations, international, cash donations and humanitarian aids from local and foreign donors for the Representative's information and reference.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUIWALO  
Secretary *see / no*

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

## CURRENT POLICIES, STRUCTURES, COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS FROM NATIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, INTERNATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN AIDS AND CASH DONATIONS FROM LOCAL AND FOREIGN DONORS

### 1. National Appropriations

Quick Response Funds of P1,325,000,000 appropriated under assistance to victims of disasters and natural calamities shall be used as QRF to serve as standby-fund for rehabilitation and relief programs, including the prepositioning of goods and equipment, in order that the situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by calamities, epidemics, crises and catastrophes which occurred in the last quarter of the immediately preceding year and those occurring during the current year may be normalized as quickly as possible. In no case shall the QRF be used for pre-disaster activities or any other purpose not authorized in provision. (Source: DBM Official Gazette, Dec. 29, 2015)

### 2. International Aid

The Government of the Philippines (GOP), as a policy, shall rely on its own resources in responding to local and national emergencies and addressing hazards. However, in instances when our own resources are not enough to cover the magnitude and scale of the hazard or the disaster, international humanitarian assistance may be requested and/or accepted by the Government. This will be governed by the PHIHAC guidelines.

### 3. Cash Donations from Local and Foreign Donors

The Local and Foreign Donor will inform the DSWD of their intention to donate Cash. DSWD will share its Land of the Philippines (LBP) Account to the Donor and once the Donor deposited the Cash donation the authorized personnel from the Cash Division shall issue an official receipt acknowledging such Cash Donations.

### 4. Humanitarian Aids from Local and Foreign Donors

DSWD is following the administrative Order No. 11 Series of 2012 entitled "Revised Guidelines in the Management and Processing of Donations". This will be facilitated by the Donation Facilitation Unit of the DSWD.

During massive disaster response operations and an appeal for international assistance is requested, the Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Reception Center

(PIHARC), a one stop shop facility shall be established to facilitate the incoming Aids from Foreign Donors.

5. **The DSWD as the Vice-Chair for Disaster Response Pillar of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has 11 Response Cluster members lead by the following agencies:**

<b>Response Clusters</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
1. Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)	DSWD
2. Food and Non-Food Items (FNFI)	
3. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Protection	
4. Search Rescue and Retrieval (SRR)	AFP
5. Law and Order	PNP
6. Health	DOH
7. Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC)	OCD
8. Management of the Dead and the Missing (MDM)	DILG
9. Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Cluster	DFA
10. Logistics	OCD
11. Education	DepEd

**6. Coordination Mechanism**

With the Institutionalization of the Cluster Approach, once Response Pillar is activated the Response Clusters mentioned above coordinate and collaborate to ensure a more coherent and effective response by mobilizing member agencies, organizations and NGOs to respond in strategic manner across all key sectors or areas of activity, each sector having a clearly designated lead, in support of existing government coordination structure and emergency response mechanisms. In this approach, resources are utilized properly and minimized duplication of services, efforts of key players are harmonized and nobody is left behind.