

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2049



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over a ten-year period alone (1992-2001), about 5,809,986 Filipinos were killed or injured as a result of disasters or man-made calamities. This led one to say that the Philippines was a 'natural laboratory for floods, typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides.'

Let this bill rationalize a system of fund administration of all cash donations or humanitarian aid received from local or foreign donors or sponsors as are intended for disaster victims or desired beneficiaries in order to address their immediate needs and assist them as quick as possible toward rehabilitation and normalcy.

In effect, it sets the procedures and protocols to be taken into account in order to fill the gaps of chronic and systemic failure to a desired smooth, timely, and responsive movement of relief food, supplies, goods and aid to affected victims or population in a disaster site or area.

The method proposed of using cash donations to purchase from the local market or business establishments is for the purpose of stimulating the local economy of the disaster area or site rather than make in another victim of the shock that a disaster brings with it. Money should flow around the affected local economy in terms of these purchases that would benefit the local constituents affected by disasters, crises, tragedies or emergencies.

The immediate passage of this bill is highly prayed.


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

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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

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Disasters in the Philippines Act."

SEC. 2. There shall be institutionalized a system of effective fund administration of cash donations or humanitarian aid coming from local or foreign donors and sponsors to help affected victims or communities during natural or man-made disasters, crises, tragedies and emergencies.

SEC. 3. Rationale. – A system of effective fund administration contemplates the following mechanics to smoothly and methodologically let relief agencies or humanitarian organizations efficiently account for funds, cash donations or aid intended for legitimate victims or communities, as follows:

1. Regional offices of the Department of Social Work and Development are tasked as Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) in accrediting banks or similar establishments to receive cash donations or humanitarian aid.
2. Cash funds withdrawn by authorized DSWD representatives will be used to purchase relief food, supplies, goods and medicines from the local market or business establishments based on specific needs of the affected population.
3. Relief agencies, humanitarian organizations or volunteer groups must be accredited with or duly recognized by the Regional Offices of DSWD or their local counterparts as far as practicable.
4. The movement of food, supplies and goods to affected, traumatized and displaced victims or populations shall be in a manner that will reach them as quickly as possible in much less time than it takes of an airlift or land transport from a distant place or when such donated goods or supplies come from boxes that have to be sorted out.
5. Collected goods other than cash donations may be auctioned and the proceeds of which shall go to the recognized relief agency or humanitarian organization in the local area where the disaster, crisis, tragedy or emergency occurred for proper custodianship for future relief efforts.

6. Authorized DSWD representatives or similar custodians of relief goods may be required to submit 'After-the-Crisis Report as basis for accounting for the cash donation, humanitarian aid or collected goods from various donors or sponsors.

SEC. 4.. The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall issue the appropriate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. All issuances, laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof not consistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,