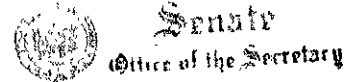


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1395

RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORT THAT ₱165 MILLION
IN YOLANDA DONATIONS
REMAIN UNUTILIZED

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section, provides: The maintenance of peace
2 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are
3 essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

4 WHEREAS, the Constitution also provides, in Article 2, Section 28: "Subject to
5 reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public
6 disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

7 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk
8 Reduction and Management Act of 2010" states:

9 Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the State to:

10

11 (g) Mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change in development
12 processes such as policy formulation, socioeconomic development planning,
13 budgeting, and governance, particularly in the areas of environment, agriculture,
14 water, energy, health, education, poverty reduction, land-use and urban planning,
15 and public infrastructure and housing, among others;

16 (h) Institutionalize the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and
17 programs with continuing budget appropriation on disaster risk reduction from
18 national down to local levels towards building a disaster-resilient nation and
19 communities....

20 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 23 May 2014 reported that approximately
21 ₱165 million in foreign and local donations for victims of super typhoon Yolanda remain unused
22 because they came from anonymous donors;

23 WHEREAS, quoting the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the
24 news said that guidelines governing the use of donations disallow the use of such funds if the
25 donors are unidentified;

1 WHEREAS, the DSWD allegedly received ₱1.152 billion in foreign and local donations
2 for victims of the killer typhoon that hit Tacloban City in 2013,

3 WHEREAS, donations from local entities purportedly reached ₱1.146 billion, while
4 foreign donors, ₱6.18 million or \$138,837,

5 WHEREAS, the DSWD reportedly admitted that ₱165 million in cash donations, which
6 should have been distributed to Yolanda victims, are sitting in bank accounts;

7 WHEREAS, on top of government financial aid, only ₱986 million or 85 percent of the
8 total ₱1.15 billion in donations have allegedly been released to typhoon victims;

9 WHEREAS, according to DSWD, in order for the funds to be released, donors who have
10 not yet been identified may send an e-mail or fax a copy of the deposit slip to the DSWD so that
11 their donation may be audited;

12 WHEREAS, funds from anonymous sources will reportedly be remitted to the Bureau of
13 Treasury after two to three years and will then become part of the government's general funds;

14 WHEREAS, restrictions to access of funds from donations deprive disaster victims of
15 much-needed financial support;

16 WHEREAS, the procedural roadblock also makes donations for disaster relief vulnerable
17 to corruption;

18 WHEREAS, Congress, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management,
19 the Department of Finance, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National
20 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and financial institutions, must consider
21 legislation that will facilitate the collection, remittance, and transfer of cash donations for victims
22 of disasters;

23 WHEREAS, Congress must also ensure that government agencies tasked with the
24 distribution of donations have quick access to such funds;

25 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
26 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that ₱165
27 million Yolanda aid still unutilized.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/rjd