

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

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**SENATE**

**P.S. RES. No. 873**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by **SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED "AYUDA SCAM" IN DAVAO DEL NORTE AND DAVAO DE ORO, WHICH THREATEN AND DISTURB THE PEACE AND ORDER OF OUR COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, "ayuda" which literally translates to "aid" has become synonymous to cash assistance distributed by the government to those financially disadvantaged. It has gained prominence in the last three years as it was the means of survival of many of our countrymen even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the DSWD has a dole out program for the less fortunate similar to the handing out of ayuda. This program is called "Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS)";

WHEREAS, AICS and ayuda have become terms interchangeably used to connote the handing out of dole-out cash assistance to persons who are less fortunate;

WHEREAS, such dole-out mechanisms amounting to millions of pesos of government funds, though with the good intention of rescuing a person in financial distress can become a venue for corruption and theft of those who have access to it and are designated to facilitate its distribution;

WHEREAS, last October 30, 2023, Governor Edwin Jubahib, on his official Facebook page, posted a video wherein he spoke about an alleged *ayuda scam* being perpetrated in his province of Davao del Norte;<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/KuyaNgMasa/videos/1047378266238000>

WHEREAS, among the alarming points raised by the Governor was the act of taking a sizeable amount from the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) intended for needy beneficiaries, wherein the expected assistance amounting to P5,000.00 was allegedly reduced to P1,000.00, with the Governor likening the said alleged act to a 'hold-up';

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2023, my office was in receipt of a letter from Governor Jubahib. The letter dated November 8, 2023 contained a request for an investigation as it was discovered that there were over sixty (60) individuals from Davao del Norte and seven (7) from Davao de Oro who had been allegedly victimized by the same scheme;

WHEREAS, according to the above mentioned letter, the victims were allegedly informed of a scheduled AICS payout for which they were qualified, as long as they would bring the necessary documents. Many of them also had an idea of how much they were to receive. They were then instructed to show up at the venue for distribution to each receive certain amount of money and made to dign documents that stated how much. Afterwards, however, they were led to a separate room where their money would be forcibly taken from them and were only allowed to take home P1,000, only 20% of the original amount of P5,000;

WHEREAS, further, there was an accusation that this was no isolated incident but acts allegedly sanctioned by political officials, committed within the premises of government offices and said alleged illegal activity were for the purpose of pooling money to give out to allies running for the recently concluded barangay elections;

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2023, during the budget hearing of the DSWD, this issue was also brought to light, and in that discussion this representation strongly encouraged the DSWD officials to coordinate with the Philippine National Police (PNP), knowing that the PNP can effectively help to prevent such alleged acts of skimming from happening, providing further protection and support to the DSWD in the conduct of assistance distribution;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, such acts gravely threaten our public order, especially because they target those who are most in need in our society, and if they are deprived of the assistance that they justly deserve in order to fill the pockets and fulfill the political ambitions of self-serving individuals, then it is not only social justice that we are holding hostage but more importantly our peace;

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/892192222510261>

WHEREAS, these alleged acts of coercion, robbery and corruption perpetrated by government officials must be investigated for the purpose of making recommendations by the Committee whether to file charges against perpetrators and with the end in view of crafting legislation to ensure that the government funds intended to help the poor are not plundered;<sup>3</sup>

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged "Ayuda Scam" in Davao del Norte and Davao de Oro, which threaten and disturb the peace and order of our communities,

*Adopted,*

  
**RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/reel/892192222510261>