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SENATE
P.S. Res 369

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Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING THE INCLUSION OF A SPECIAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN BILLION PESOS (PHP 10,000,000,000.00) IN THE 2014 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS FUND TO AID THE VICTIMS OF SUPER TYPHOON 'YOLANDA' AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PROVINCES OF LEYTE, SAMAR, ILOILO, CEBU, PALAWAN AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AFFECTED

Whereas, several cities and municipalities in the provinces of Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Palawan, Iloilo and others were decimated by Super Typhoon "Yolanda" (international codename: Haiyan) last November 8, with the catastrophic typhoon considered as one of the strongest typhoons in history;

Whereas, a total of 41 provinces were affected by the wrath of Super Typhoon Yolanda, and has affected 4.5 million Filipinos, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, with the victims desperately seeking shelter and needing food, clean water and medical supplies;

Whereas, President Benigno C. Aquino III has declared a state of national calamity to speed up search, rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts as several towns have yet to be reached by aid;

Whereas, the government has also placed Tacloban, the capital city of Leyte province, under a state of emergency to bring back law and order as it was reported that some survivors resorted to looting from groceries, malls and other private establishments, as well as raids on trucks containing relief goods from the Philippine Red Cross and other civic groups, just to fend for themselves;

Whereas, residents of the affected areas lost their homes, even huge buildings and establishments were destroyed, more than 1,000 are recorded to have died thus far, while the number of missing people are yet to be accounted for, numerous ships were swept inland, rotting corpses are everywhere (floating on flood water, hung up in trees, piled up along the streets, buried beneath debris, etc.), survivors were left unfed for three to four days, survivors start to become desperate and violent in order to survive as sources of food continue to be scarce;

Whereas, super Typhoon Yolanda, with its 235 mph gusts of destructive winds, was reported to have destroyed 70-80 percent of structures in its path, and caused damage to the coconut and rice-growing provinces of Leyte and Samar estimated to have amounted to more than P3 billion and was expected to further increase;

Whereas, notwithstanding the provisions of relevant charters of government-owned and controlled corporations and relevant governing laws, the P10-Billion special fund may be sourced from the following budgetary items in the 2014 General Appropriations Act (GAA):

- A portion equivalent to fifty percent (50 %) of the so-called Feasibility Studies Fund;
- Funds from the scrapped Priority Development Assistance Fund of lawmakers;
- Five billion pesos (Php 5,000,000,000.00) from the Unprogrammed Funds;
- Two billion pesos (php 2,000,000,000.00) from the Road Users' Fund (governed by a special law);
- A portion of the income and savings generated by various government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations;
- Thirty three percent (33 % or equivalent to Php 500.00 pesos of sports uniform per government employee) of the cultural and athletic activities identified in Section 42 of the General Provisions in the GAA;
- Whatever amount left in the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to set-up a P10-Billion Special Fund to immediately render aid to our countrymen affected by super typhoon Yolanda, and for the reconstruction of the provinces of Leyte, Samar and other affected areas.

Adopted,


GRACE POE