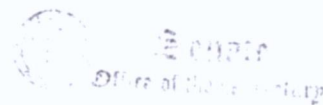


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 601



18 FEB -1 P 2:02

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

RECEIVED

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND FUNDING MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THE QUICKEST AND MOST EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE URGENT RELIEF NEEDS OF RESIDENTS OF ALBAY AFFECTED BY THE ONGOING ERUPTION OF THE MAYON VOLCANO

WHEREAS, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10121, or the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010," it shall be the policy of the State to "institutionalize the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and programs with continuing budget appropriation on disaster risk reduction from national down to local levels towards building a disaster-resilient nation and communities;"

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121 also makes it a policy of the State to "provide maximum care, assistance and services to individuals and families affected by disaster, implement emergency rehabilitation projects to lessen the impact of disaster, and facilitate resumption of normal social and economic activities;"

WHEREAS, the Mayon Volcano, located in the province of Albay in the Bicol Region, was first observed to be spewing ash last 13 January 2018. From an initial Alert Level 1, the alert status set by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) for the Mayon Volcano had risen to Alert Level 4 by 22 January given the volcano's growing unrest. PHIVOLCS also extended the coverage of the danger zone to within an 8-kilometer radius from the crater;

WHEREAS, on 16 January 2018, the provincial government declared a State of Calamity over Albay, which allowed the Local Government Unit (LGU) to fully mobilize all agencies and resources to respond to emergencies;

WHEREAS, as of 24 January 2018, 14,483 families, or 55,068 individuals from Camalig, Guinobatan, Ligao City, Daraga, Tabaco City, Malilipot, Santo Domingo (Libog) and Legaspi City are currently sheltered in 59 evacuation centers while 1,395 families, or 6,165 persons, are being hosted by relatives and friends. The provincial government expects this number to increase to 30,000 families, or 100,000 individuals, as more areas are evacuated;

WHEREAS, the Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units (LGUs) are leading the disaster response with the support of the DSWD and other National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs);

WHEREAS, in 22 January 2018, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) expedited the release of Albay's Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), to enable the Provincial LGU to use its P28.26 Million Quick Response Fund. According to the DBM, the LGU can also tap into the unutilized province's Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) of approximately P39.2 Million;

WHEREAS, NGAs, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), and Office of Civil Defense (OCD), and other donors have already donated a total of P27,233,909.01 for relief operations, with P25,230,909.01 in in-kind donations and P2,003,000.00 in cash donations;

WHEREAS, as of 24 January 2018, the DSWD was attending to the transport and distribution of 30,000 Family Food Packs (FPPs), and the preparation of another 39,000 FPPs for the affected families;

WHEREAS, aside from assuring a continuous food supply, the installation of adequate toilets and water supply facilities were seen to be critical to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the evacuees. 1,647 toilets need to be installed to prevent the spread of illness in the evacuation centers. With only 411 toilets already installed, there is still a need for 1,222 toilets;

WHEREAS, despite the LGU's internal funding mechanisms as well as the financial contributions and support from the NGAs and other donor agencies, Local Government Officials are concerned that the funds will be inadequate to sustain the relief operations for the 30,000 affected families;

WHEREAS, if the Mayon's volcanic activity continues, the Provincial LGU estimates a total cost of P558 Million just to provide food for 30,000 families for a period of three months. The Provincial and Municipal LGUs will need additional funds to support the needs of the evacuees and to compensate damages caused by this calamity;

WHEREAS, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund's (NDRRMF) has a budget allocation of P19.6 billion in the 2018 General Appropriations Act (GAA) which should be used for aid, relief, rehabilitation services to communities/areas affected by man-made and natural calamities, and repair and reconstruction of permanent structures, including other capital expenditures for disaster operation, and rehabilitation activities;

WHEREAS, the Quick Response Funds of NGA's cannot be downloaded to LGUs. LGUs are thus dependent on NGA's to augment their capacity to provide relief assistance directly to their communities;

WHEREAS, affected LGU's can propose projects for funding from the NDRRMF if the LDRRM Fund and Special Trust Fund of the LGU are insufficient to cover the project cost. However, the long processing period of 60 working days for processing and

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approving such requests makes this mechanism appear to be a poor and untimely option for addressing urgent relief concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the current policies, coordination protocols and funding mechanisms to ensure the quickest and most efficient government response to the urgent relief needs of residents of Albay affected by the ongoing eruption of the Mayon Volcano.

Adopted,

Bam Aquino