



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5778



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is considered as one of the world's most disaster-prone countries as it is located along the boundary of major tectonic plates and at the center of a typhoon belt. As such, its islands are regularly impacted by floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, and even droughts. The Philippines also ranks among the top three countries in the world for population exposure and vulnerability to hazards.

While the country has continued to further develop its disaster management structures and resources by improving communication and institutionalizing roles and responsibilities for national and international players, reports show that there are time gaps and inefficiencies in the administration of funds, cash donations, and other humanitarian aid.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a system of effective fund administration of funds, cash donations, and other humanitarian aid coming from both local and foreign donors and sponsors to effectively and efficiently aid individuals or communities who are affected during natural or man-made disasters, crises, tragedies, and emergencies.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



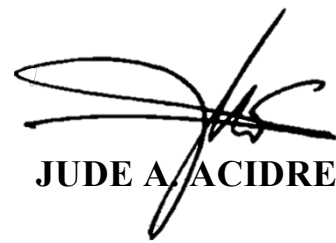
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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

Section 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Disaster Fund Administration.”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* There shall be an institutionalized 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.

Section 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 Welfare and Development (DSWD) 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, and 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 representative 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.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, ordinances, or administrative orders or parts thereof not consistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect thirty days (30) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,