



**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL
P R E S S R E L E A S E**

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DSWD STATEMENT ON DONATED GOODS

NEW YORK – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has given its assurance that relief goods sent to the agency by various donors are distributed to organizations and local government units, in accordance with requests received by the DSWD.

Contrary to stories circulating through social networking sites and blogs that donated goods are being hoarded and that volunteers are not being deployed properly, Dr. Esperanza Cabral, Secretary of the DSWD explained that the warehouses are full because of the generosity of donors, as goods continue to stream in as quickly as they are sent out by the agency to all groups involved in disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts to benefit the victims of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng, regardless of political affiliation or religious persuasion.

“We would like to assure all of you that the relief goods will reach the intended beneficiaries as they become necessary and will be used only to assist them. However, the relief goods don’t all go out at the same time and an empty warehouse is not proof that the goods were used properly just as a full warehouse is not evidence that the goods are being hoarded.”

To the claim that there are no volunteers working to repack and redistribute goods, the Secretary said,

“I never said that we lacked volunteers or that the lack of volunteers impeded our work. Actually our goods are sent to the Regional Offices, local government units, etc., as requested, either as repacked goods or un-repacked items, i.e., sacks of rice, boxes of canned goods, pallets of jerry cans, etc.. There has never been an instance when the request for repacked goods was turned down by the Central Warehouse because it was unavailable at the time of the request whatever the number of volunteers we had on the days previous. There is always a sufficient number of items, repacked or not, to respond to the requests we receive.

There are no rotting relief goods in our warehouses as we do not keep perishables there and the relief goods that are there, save for the donated old clothes are quite new since they have been either recently purchased....our goods are repacked by volunteers who are there because they want to help...our staff at the warehouse work round-the-clock even now, making sure that the request for relief goods are met in a timely manner. They work hard, work quietly, work humbly. I feel bad that they have been subjected to public vilification that they do not deserve...”

To this end, the Philippine Consulate General New York is glad to report that the donated goods collected by the Project Handang Tulong Committee and sent to the Philippines on 17 October, (through the generosity of Johnny Air Cargo) to the DSWD, for onward transmission to such relief distribution channels as Focolare, Pasay and Kababaihang Rizalista (for the Marikina Relief Center) have already been received and acknowledged by the groups. The email acknowledgments were received by the Consulate on 27 October. The boxes were initially delivered to the DSWD Operations Center in Pasay and went through the one-stop clearance procedure implemented by the DSWD and coordinating agencies for donated goods sent through their office. END.

Labanan ang Kahirapan

Ramdam ang Kaunlaran

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