

VERY URGENT

To: ALL POSTS
 Cc: All Offices
 Fr: OSEC
 Re: Aid for emergency relief of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) victims
 Dt: 11 November 2013
 Cn: *CR-2035-OSEC-2013*

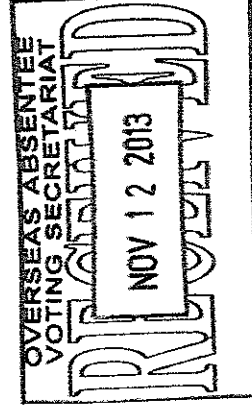
In view of the offers of emergency assistance from the international community for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan), all Posts are informed of the following:

1. The President has yet to declare a national state of emergency owing to the constraints in gathering information on the extent of casualties and damage to property. However, it is expected that he will issue the declaration within the next two days.
2. The government has given its consent to the United Nations to issue a global appeal, which is expected to be launched tomorrow, November 12. Nevertheless, even in the absence of a formal appeal, the Philippine government welcomes relevant humanitarian assistance from our ~~bilateral partners~~, international organizations and NGO's. The UN appeal will contain details on the needs of the victims, including costing, and the timeline. ~~No other international appeal has been made.~~
3. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) is in the process of setting up one-stop shops in Manila and Cebu to facilitate the influx of emergency aid and relief goods being offered by foreign governments, international organizations and NGO's. Details of that will be disseminated to Post as soon as they are in place.
4. There is great difficulty in ascertaining the exact needs of the victims at this time given the constraints in communications, logistics, peace and order, and widespread destruction that has rendered the concerned LGU's, particularly Tacloban in Leyte, operating at only 10 percent of its normal capacity.

Following coordination meetings with the NDRRMC, Posts are informed of the following guidelines in coordinating offers of aid from their respective host governments and Filipino community and private groups at this time. These are expected to be updated in the coming days as communication facilities in the affected areas are restored and needs assessments are completed:

DFA Coordinating Unit for Typhoon Yolanda

- a. The Department has set up the DFA Coordinating Unit for Typhoon Yolanda to coordinate and facilitate offers of aid coming from foreign governments, sent either through the concerned FSP or their diplomatic missions in Manila, as well as



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compile all information on international assistance. The unit will be responsible to provide required information or otherwise direct queries to the concerned action office or government agency related but not restricted to the following:

- Landing permits of aircrafts bringing in relief goods and equipment;
- Entry of medical missions and search-and-rescue teams;
- Donations, in cash or in kind;
- Entry of goods, medicines and equipment,
- Visa concerns for humanitarian workers.

b. The unit is operational 24/7, and is headed by UNIO Assistant Secretary Jesus R.S. Domingo (mobile +63 917 866 4297, email domingojs23@yahoo.com) assisted by OSEC Principal Assistant Rachel Oronce (mobile +63 908 820 7123, email rla.osec@gmail.com).

To facilitate quick action and promote clarity of information that will be shared with our international partners, Posts are encouraged to direct all inquiries related to Typhoon Yolanda to the Coordinating Unit. The Department will also request all diplomatic missions in Manila to directly coordinate with the Unit.

During office hours, the unit may be contacted through the following:

- Telephone: (+632) 834-4933, 551-0445
- Fax: (+632) 832-1597

During non-office hours, queries may be directed to the Department Action Center through the following:

- Telephone: (+632) 834-3333, 834-4997
- Fax (+63-2) 831-4411
- Email: action.center@dfa.gov.ph

Entry of aircrafts bearing relief goods and medical/humanitarian personnel

- a. Foreign aircrafts bringing in relief goods or being offered for search-and-rescue operations or for airlifting of emergency supplies must obtain a landing permit. To facilitate this, all pertinent information must be relayed to the Department, preferably via Note Verbale, through the concerned FSPs or the concerned government's diplomatic mission in Manila. Pending the full operation of the one-stop shops, OIS will facilitate the issuance of landing permits with the concerned authorities.
- b. It is recommended that military aircrafts being used for the purposes mentioned above be assigned civilian call signs to facilitate the issuance of landing permits.
- c. For the time being, all foreign aircrafts who will be issued landing permits will be asked to land in Manila (Villamor Airbase). The Cebu International Airport should be able to receive similar aircrafts soon.

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Entry of goods, including medicines and equipment

A listing of all goods and equipment that will be brought in for humanitarian relief efforts must be communicated in advance to the Department preferably via Note Verbale. The Department will pass this information on to the concerned agency (DSWD, BoC, DOH, etc).

What do the victims need?

a. Owing to the constraints in communications and the on-going assessments being undertaken on the ground, NDRRMC has yet to come up with a specific list of needed items for the victims.

b. For now, Posts may cite the following items as the most urgent needs of the victims:

- Food (preferably ready-to-eat, cooked)
- Water
- Water purifiers
- Water containers
- Tents and other temporary shelters
- Blankets, pillows, towels, etc.
- Hygiene kits
- Cooking apparatus and utensils
- Power generators

A more detailed list should be available by the end of today, which will be duly sent to Posts.

Entry of humanitarian workers, medical workers and search-and-rescue teams

- a. The Department expects that most of the aforementioned personnel enjoy the 21-day no visa privilege.
- b. For the ones requiring visas, Posts are instructed, as much as possible, to issue them one before they leave for the Philippines to avoid having to apply for an extension of their stay with the Bureau of Immigration here. OCA will authorize same-day release of 9e visas when necessary.
- c. Only as a last resort, the Department may grant visa waivers to non-EO 408 nationals. The concerned Posts are instructed to send to the Department their names, nationalities, birthdays, passport numbers and flight details. OCA will endorse them accordingly to the BI for the issuance of visas upon arrival.
- d. The NDRRMC has emphasized that at this time, they do not have the resources nor the capability to assist, escort and guarantee the security of search-and-rescue and medical teams to the affected areas. In this regard, Posts are to relay the following

information to their host governments and private groups/NGOs/Filcom groups intending to dispatch such teams to the Philippines before the teams leave for the Philippines to manage expectations and for them to prepare adequately.

- Search-and-rescue teams are to coordinate to the NDRRMC-Office of Civil Defense (OCD) while medical teams are to coordinate with the DOH in Manila to get advice on where they can go. Contact information on the focal persons in these agencies will be furnished soon.
- The teams will be responsible for their travel from Manila or Cebu to Tacloban or to the area where they want to extend assistance, as the Philippine government has no means to provide for these.
- They will also be responsible for the safety of their team members, as well as for their provisions while in the field (food, clothing, shelter, communications, electric power, etc).

Assistance from Filipino community groups and private entities

- a. Posts should encourage Filipino community groups and private entities to donate cash to facilitate bringing aid to those in need and avoid the bureaucratic complications that accompany imported donated goods.
- b. Monetary donations, preferably peso denominated, can be sent to the following:
 - National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center
 Account Name: NDRRMC Donated Funds
 Account Numbers: 0435-021927-030 (Peso Account), 0435-021927-530 (US Dollar Account)
 Swift Code: DBPHPHMM Account # 36002016
 Bank Address: Development Bank of the Philippines, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
 - Department Of Social Welfare And Development (DSWD)
 Account No. 3124-0055-81
 Bank address: Land Bank of the Philippines, Batasan, Quezon City
 Contact person: Ms. Fe Catalina Ea, Cash Division
 Contact numbers: +63-2 931 8101 local 226, mobile +63-918 628 1897
 Website: www.dswd.gov.ph
 - Philippine Red Cross (PRC)
 Banco de Oro: 00-453-0018647 (Peso), 10-453-0039482 (USD)
 swift code BNORPHMM
 Metro Bank: 151-3-041631228 (Pesos), 151-2-15100218-2 (USD)
 swift code MBTCPHMM
 Philippine National Bank: 3752-8350-0034 (Peso), 3750-8350-0042 (USD)
 swift code PNBMPHMM
 Union Bank of the Philippines: 1015 4000 0201 (Peso), 1315 4000 0090 (USD)
 swift code UBPHPHMM

- c. Posts are reminded of the existing Department regulations prohibiting them from accepting money on behalf of the government.
- d. Those groups who prefer to send donations in kind, especially medicines, must be advised of the existing customs regulations on the entry of such goods in the Philippines. Donations in kind may be sent to:
 - DSWD National Resource Operations Center, Chapel Road, Pasay City, Tel. +63-918-930-2356
- e. As of this writing, the DSWD has not lifted its prohibition of donations of used clothing.

Reporting

Posts are instructed to send reports to OSEC (attention the Coordinating Unit, copy furnished their respective policy (geographic) offices and UNIO) of all offers of assistance from their host governments as well as Filipino community groups, NGO's and business groups under their jurisdictions, for monitoring purposes.

Book of condolences and flags at half-mast

Posts will be advised in the event that a Book of Condolences and/or flying of flags half-mast will be observed.

Contact list

For Posts' information, the Department is coming up with a list of focal persons of government agencies involved in coordinating relief assistance from the international community. The Department reiterates, however, that Posts should direct whatever queries they may have on the matter to the DFA Coordinating Unit to facilitate quick action and ensure clarity.

The Department will issue further advisories on the matter as they arise.

For Posts' information and appropriate action.

LAURA Q. DEL ROSARIO
Undersecretary

