



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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 954

Introduced by:
Representative Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez
and Representative Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SINCEREST APPRECIATION AND PROFOUND
GRATITUDE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(USAID) FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO
THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) serves as the world's premier international development agency which provides development assistance and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance and help partner countries, including the Philippines;

WHEREAS, a long-term ally, the Philippines received from the United States a total assistance of P29.6 billion (\$582 million) in the health sector and P228.8 billion (\$4.5 billion) for the country's development goals over the past twenty (20) years;

WHEREAS, in March 2020, in addition to the various development projects received that is worth more than P5 billion (\$100 million), the Philippines obtained more than P762.6 million (more than \$15 million) from the United States, through the USAID and the State Department to fight COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the USAID helps the National Government, through its health and humanitarian assistance, to implement universal health standards, safety measures and response strategies to protect Filipinos against COVID-19 by way of (1) giving assistance to local governments for a more robust health service delivery at the barangay and household levels; (2) helping individuals, families and frontline health workers to protect themselves from infection through widespread training programs; (3) playing a pivotal role in supporting the Department of Health (DOH) to rapidly and effectively communicate the latest COVID-19 guidelines nationwide; and (4) expanding community access to water, sanitation and hygiene information, services and commodities in places directly affected by the virus;

WHEREAS, in support to the health sector, the USAID also: (1) helped the DOH to upgrade laboratories and expand specimen transport systems to boost its testing capacity; (2) developed a COVID-19 commodity and logistics tracking pool that improves the availability of life-saving equipment and supplies; (3) supported the health programs of the DOH to maintain essential health services for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV, for family planning and maternal care, and for child health; and (4) supported financial risk protection, procurement and supply of health commodities, and human resources for health;

WHEREAS, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, USAID supported the basic education, higher education and workforce development in the country, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), to advance the children's right to quality education through meaningful reading and learning experiences at home or remote learning, and helped identify or address learning gaps for students once schools reopen after the pandemic;

WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19, USAID set up an online marketplace in three essential marine biodiversities in South Negros, Visayan Sea, and Calamianes Group of Islands in Palawan, to address food supply disruptions, including the new public dashboard production to incorporate data analytics on ecological sustainability through partnership with universities, non-governmental organizations and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;

WHEREAS, USAID also provided humanitarian support to protect those displaced by conflict and recent earthquakes in Mindanao through (1) amplifying health messages from the DOH for internally displaced persons and improve access to handwashing and hygiene supplies to reduce the transmission of COVID-19; (2) partnership with train camp managers on COVID-19 to implement social distancing and improve sanitation; and (3) continued

provision of vital water supply in transitory sites in Lanao del Sur for families displaced by the Marawi siege;

WHEREAS, in the May 7, 2020 announcement of the United States Embassy in the Philippines, the country is expected to receive an additional P298 million (\$5.9 million) to help support the country in its fight against COVID-19 which brings the total amount of more than P768 million (\$15.2 million) worth of health crisis assistance;

WHEREAS, the USAID also collaborated with eighteen local government units (LGUs) in some of the hardest-hit areas to support the immediate disbursement of emergency funding and distribution of Special Amelioration Program subsidies, strengthen the capacity of local crisis response information, manage quarantine measures, set up public handwashing facilities, ensure food supply, and support local business recovery;

WHEREAS, the USAID has always been providing full support to the Philippine government's projects in terms of economic development and governance, education, environment, health, and other humanitarian assistance;

WHEREAS, for its demonstration of goodwill and promotion of democratic values and advances in governance, peace, and democracy, the USAID deserves the highest recognition and admiration of this grateful nation: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To

express its sincerest appreciation and profound gratitude to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for its continued support and commitment to the Filipino people.

Adopted,


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ


YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ