



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3914



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA

AN ACT
FACILITATING AND REGULATING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF AND
INITIAL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

The UNISDR and Centre on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), in their study "The Human Cost of Weather Related Disasters," listed our country as the fourth most disaster-prone country in the world because of the 274 disasters we experienced from 1995 to 2015.

According to the study posted by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), an average of 20 typhoons make landfall in the Philippines every year. One of the strongest recorded typhoon, Haiyan or locally known as Yolanda, caused more than 6,000 fatalities and damaged about 1.1 million properties across the archipelago. GFDRR also reported that earthquakes and volcanic eruptions frequently affect the country, citing the January 2018 eruption of the Mayon volcano, which caused more than 56,000 people to evacuate the surrounding areas and damaging agriculture.¹

In a case study released by the Asian Development Bank Institute on March 2018, titled "Natural Disasters, Public Spending, And Creative Destruction: A Case Study Of The Philippines," it is reported that between 2000 and 2016, natural disasters in the Philippines caused over 23,000 deaths and affected roughly 125 million people. Furthermore, according to the paper, the associated socioeconomic damage was about \$20 billion with average annual damages of \$1.2 billion.²

¹ <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/philippines>

² (Jha, et al. 2018)

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/408351/adbi-wp817.pdf>

Due to the brunt of disasters to human life and economy, the Philippines received various international assistance from neighboring countries and allies. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International aid agency Oxfam, the US government, the European Union, South Korea, and Japan to name a few, were among the constant donors of the Philippines.

However, as foreign and private sector assistance continue to pour in, there is a need to ensure that resources benefit targeted victim communities in affected areas. *Strict monitoring and transparent accounting of aid should be undertaken to avoid misallocation and misuse of resources.*

In order to facilitate the ease of flow of international assistance by foreign governments and aid agencies and ensure that the aid being offered is what is needed on the ground, this bill seeks to designate the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) as the central focal point agency between the government of Philippines and assisting international actors in order to promote the effective facilitation, coordination and oversight of international disaster assistance.

It requires the NDRRMC to consult with the local government units affected by a calamity in determining the list of goods, equipment and service needed for relief and recovery. A Single Window International Facilitation Teams (SWIFTs) is also proposed to be established in order to consolidate and expedite the legal requirements concerning entry of international disaster relief and personnel, goods, equipment and transport.

By providing the mechanisms to ensure the timely and efficient entry and delivery of international aid assistance in the country, it is hoped that resources available will be put to good use. Effective administration of aid will immensely contribute to the immediate recovery of severely affected communities

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



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**AN ACT
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INITIAL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**CHAPTER I
General Provisions**

1 **SECTION 1. *Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “International Disaster Relief and
2 Initial Recovery Assistance Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. *Purpose and Scope.*** – This Act sets out procedures, roles and
4 responsibilities related to the facilitation and regulation of international disaster
5 assistance provided to the Philippines in the event of a disaster on its territory.

6 In particular, this Act:

- 7 (i) sets out roles and responsibilities for key officials and departments
8 concerned with the facilitation and regulation of international disaster
9 assistance;
- 10 (ii) establishes procedures for initiating, coordinating, and terminating
11 international disaster assistance

- (iii) establishes the mechanism for recognition of eligibility for legal facilities for certain assisting actors;
- (iv) specifies the legal facilities to be provided to such eligible actors; and
- (v) specifies that minimum standard are expected from assisting actors providing international disaster assistance

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following shall have the corresponding meanings:

- a. *"Assisting Actor"* means any assisting international actor and any assisting domestic actor responding to a disaster in the Philippines;
- b. *"Assisting Domestic Actor"* means any non-profit entity established under the laws of the Philippines, which is responding to a disaster in the territory of the Philippines;
- c. *"Assisting International Actor"* means any foreign state, organization, entity or individual responding to a disaster on the territory of the Philippines;
- d. *"Assisting State"* means any foreign government that is providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance to the Philippines, whether through its civilian or military institutions;
- e. *"Disaster Relief"* means the goods, equipment, services and internationally donated funds provided to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of disaster affected communities;
- f. *"Disaster"* means a serious disruption of the functioning of society, which poses a significant, widespread threat to human life, health, property or the environment, whether arising from accident, nature, or human activity, whether developing suddenly or as the result of long-term processes, but excluding armed conflict;

- 1 g. *"Domestic Non-Governmental Organization"* or *"Domestic NGO"* means any
2 non-governmental, non-profit entity, which is registered or created under the
3 laws of the Philippines and whose mandate and activities are exclusively
4 focused on humanitarian relief, recovery or development;
- 5 h. *"Eligible Actor"* means any assisting actor that has been determined to be
6 eligible to receive legal facilities, in accordance with Chapters V and VI of this
7 Act;
- 8 i. *"Equipment"* means physical items, other than goods, which come from
9 international sources and are designated for use in disaster relief or initial
10 recovery assistance, including, but not limited to, vehicles, medical, and
11 telecommunications equipment;
- 12 j. *"Foreign Components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent
13 Movement"* means foreign National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies, the
14 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the
15 International Committee of the Red Cross;
- 16 k. *"Foreign Non-Governmental Organization"* or *"Foreign NGO"* means any
17 nongovernmental, not-for-profit entity not incorporated/ registered in the
18 Philippines, whose mandate and activities are focused on humanitarian relief,
19 recovery or development;
- 20 l. *"Goods"* means supplies from international sources intended to be provided to
21 disaster-affected communities for their relief or initial recovery;
- 22 m. *"Initial Recovery Assistance"* means goods, equipment, services and
23 internationally donated funds intended to restore or improve the pre- disaster
24 living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including initiatives to
25 increase resilience to disasters and reduce disaster risk;
- 26 n. *"Internationally Donated Funds"* means any funds donated by foreign
27 persons or entities directly to the Government of Philippines or to an

1 assisting domestic actor for purposes of disaster relief or initial recovery
2 assistance;

3 o. "International Disaster Assistance" means disaster relief and initial recovery
4 assistance that is provided by assisting international actors, or imported or
5 otherwise brought to Philippines from abroad by or on behalf of assisting
6 domestic actors;

7 p. "*International Disaster Relief Period*" means the period following a disaster, as
8 described in Sections 8 and 9 of this Act, during which the relevant legal
9 facilities described in Chapter VI are made available to eligible actors for the
10 purpose of providing disaster relief;

11 q. "*International Initial Recovery Period*" means the period following a disaster, as
12 described in Sections 8 and 10 of this Act, during which the relevant legal
13 facilities described in Chapter VI are made available to eligible actors for the
14 purpose of providing initial recovery assistance;

15 r. "International Personnel" means the staff, and volunteers of any assisting actor
16 providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance in the Philippines, being
17 persons who are neither citizens of Philippines nor domiciled in Philippines prior
18 to their recruitment by the assisting actor;

19 s. "Legal Facilities" means the special entitlements and exemptions that are made
20 available to Eligible Assisting Actors under Chapter VI of this Act;

21 t. "Locally Engaged Personnel" means nationals or persons domiciled in the
22 Philippines who are recruited as staff or volunteers by assisting international
23 actors to provide disaster relief or initial recovery assistance;

24 u. "Services" means activities undertaken by assisting actors to assist disaster
25 affected communities with their relief or initial recovery, such as search and
26 rescue activities, medical care, protection services and information services;

1 v. "Transit Facilities" means the special entitlements and exemptions that are
2 made available to assisting international actors under Chapter VII of this Act.

3 w. "Transit Facilities Period" means the period following a disaster in another
4 country, as described in Section 62 of this Act, during which the relevant legal
5 facilities described in chapter vii are made available to assisting actors for the
6 purpose of providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance.

7 x. "Transport" means the land, air or water vehicles operated on or behalf
8 assisting actors to transport international personnel, goods and equipment
9 across an international border for the purpose of providing disaster relief or
10 initial recovery assistance.

11 **SEC. 4. *Existing Rights, Privileges and Immunities.*** – Nothing in this Act shall be
12 interpreted to limit or reduce the existing rights, privileges or immunities of any
13 assisting actor as separately recognized by other laws or agreements of the
14 Philippines, and any status or headquarters agreement between the Philippines and
15 an assisting international actor.

16 **CHAPTER II**
17 **Initiation and Termination of International Disaster Assistance**

18 **SEC. 5. *Assessment of the Need for International Disaster Assistance.***

19 a. Immediately after the onset of a major disaster, and in consultation with relevant
20 local government units and local authorities, the National Disaster Risk
21 Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall make a determination,
22 based on initial estimates, as to whether domestic capacities are likely to be
23 sufficient to attend to the needs of affected persons for disaster relief and initial
24 recovery assistance. This determination may also be made, at the discretion of
25 the NDRRMC, prior to the onset of an imminent major Disaster.

1 b. In the event of a determination that domestic response capacities are not likely
2 to be sufficient due to the scale of the disaster, the NDRRMC shall advise the
3 President and recommend that an immediate request be made for international
4 disaster assistance.

5 c. If such a recommendation is made, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with
6 relevant local government units and local authorities, develop a preliminary
7 list of goods, equipment and services required. The NDRRMC shall make this
8 list available to potential assisting international actors immediately upon the
9 commencement of an international disaster relief period pursuant to section 8.
10 The list shall be updated as needed to reflect new information and changing
11 circumstances.

12 d. A determination that domestic capacities are likely to be sufficient and that
13 international disaster assistance is therefore unnecessary may be reviewed
14 and rescinded by the NDRRMC at any time, in light of updated information.

15 **SEC. 6. *Requests for International Disaster Assistance.* –**

16 a. Upon the advice of the NDRRMC, the President may make a request for
17 International Disaster Assistance. That request may be specifically directed to
18 particular international actors, or it may be a general request directed to the
19 international community as a whole.

20 b. The request shall be accompanied by:

21 (i) information as to the extent and type of assistance required, based on
22 the list prepared by the NDRRMC pursuant to Section 5, unless this
23 would lead to undue delay; and

24 (ii) information on the procedures for assisting international actors to make
25 offers or provide assistance pursuant to Section 7.

26 **SEC. 7. *Offers and Acceptance of International Assistance.* –**

1 a. Assisting states and intergovernmental organizations interested in providing
2 international disaster assistance shall direct an offer to the Department of
3 Foreign Affairs (DFA) through the appropriate Philippine embassy. Offers
4 should indicate, in general terms, the type, amount and estimated duration of
5 assistance to be provided. The DFA shall then consult with the NDRRMC about
6 such offers. Upon the direction of the NDRRMC the DFA may accept such
7 offers, in whole or in part.

8 b. Assisting states planning to provide aid through military actors shall make such
9 offers according to agreements between the Philippines and the assisting
10 states and other relevant laws of the Philippines. They may be accepted, in
11 whole or in part, with the specific conditions set out in the aforementioned laws,
12 regulations and/ or agreements.

13 c. In the event of a general request for international disaster assistance made
14 pursuant to section 6(a), assisting international actors other than assisting
15 states and intergovernmental organizations are exempt from making formal
16 offers. However, they shall comply with the terms of the general request and
17 shall inform the NDRRMC of the type, amount and estimated duration of
18 assistance to be provided in advance of their arrival.

19 d. In the absence of a general request for international disaster assistance,
20 assisting international actors may make unsolicited offers to the DFA through,
21 the appropriate Philippine embassy. The DFA shall consult with NDRRMC and,
22 upon its direction, may accept such offers, in whole or in part.

23 **SEC. 8. *International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Periods.* –**

24 a. The international disaster relief and recovery periods shall both commence
25 simultaneously upon the issuance of a request for international disaster
26 assistance under Section 6, or upon acceptance of an offer under Section 7,

1 and shall continue until terminated pursuant to Section 9 or Section 10, as
2 appropriate.

- 3 b. The legal facilities described in Chapter VI shall only be effective during the
4 international disaster relief and initial recovery periods.

5 **SEC. 9. *Termination of the International Disaster Relief Period.* –**

- 6 a. When, on the basis of updated needs assessments and other information and
7 in consultation with assisting actors, the NDRRMC is satisfied that the need for
8 disaster relief is coming to an end, it shall advise the President to approve a
9 termination date for the international disaster relief period, with due
10 consideration for the impact on ongoing relief activities. This termination shall
11 not affect the ongoing validity of the international initial recovery period.

- 12 b. The termination date shall be announced to assisting actors no later than 30
13 days prior to the proposed date. The announcement shall also include
14 information about the anticipated ongoing needs for goods and services related
15 to initial recovery assistance, if any.

- 16 c. Upon the issuance of an announcement pursuant to this Section, the
17 NDRRMC shall consult with assisting actors actively involved in disaster relief
18 work in order to reduce any negative impact from the termination and, where
19 necessary, to ensure an adequate handover of responsibilities.

20 **SEC 10. *Termination of the International Initial Recovery Period.* –**

- 21 a. When, on the basis of updated needs assessments and other information, and
22 in consultation with assisting actors, the NDRRMC is satisfied that the need for
23 international initial recovery assistance is coming to an end, it shall advise
24 the President to approve a termination date for the international initial recovery

1 period, with due consideration for the impact on ongoing initial recovery
2 activities.

3 b. The termination date shall be announced to assisting actors no later than 30
4 days prior to the proposed date.

5 c. Upon the issuance of an announcement pursuant to this Section, the NDRRMC
6 shall consult with assisting actors actively involved in initial recovery assistance
7 work in order to reduce any negative impact from the termination and, where
8 necessary, to ensure an adequate handover of responsibilities.

9 CHAPTER II

10 Coordination and Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance

11 SEC. 11. *Coordination Duties and Powers of the Focal Point Agency.* –

12 a. The NDRRMC shall serve as a central focal point agency for liaison between
13 the government of Philippines and assisting international actors, promoting the
14 effective facilitation, coordination and oversight of international disaster
15 assistance pursuant to this chapter. As such, the NDRRMC shall serve as
16 the main counterpart for any applicable international or regional
17 coordination mechanisms.

18 b. The NDRRMC shall inform assisting actors and relevant national and local
19 governmental agencies of their rights and responsibilities under this Act and
20 orient them to other laws, rules or procedures especially relevant to
21 international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance

22 c. During the international disaster relief and initial recovery periods, the
23 NDRRMC may order any relevant governmental body of Philippines to
24 undertake actions or make available assets or premises required to facilitate
25 the work of assisting international actors to provide disaster relief or initial
26 recovery assistance. Such bodies shall comply to the fullest extent

possible within their legal mandates. Any order that may impose a substantial burden on the cooperating agency may be reviewed at its request by the Secretary of agency or department involved.

- d. During the international disaster relief and initial recovery periods, the NDRRMC may likewise request any private actor to undertake voluntary actions, at their own expense, as needed to facilitate the work of assisting international actors to provide disaster relief or initial recovery assistance. This may include a request to lower or waive fees or charges for key services required by assisting international actors and/or to extend operating hours for their provision

SEC.12. Taskforce on International Disaster Assistance Preparedness. –

- a. A cross-sectoral Taskforce on International Disaster Assistance Preparedness (“the Taskforce”) shall be established, to operate in accordance with this Section, under the chairmanship of the NDRRMC with the primary role of enhancing preparedness for implementation of this Act in case of a disaster requiring international disaster assistance

- b. The Taskforce shall be composed of representatives from:

- (i) The NRRMC;
- (ii) The Department of Social Welfare and Development
- (iii) The Philippine Red Cross
- (iv) The Office of the Governor/s of the Province/s involved;
- (v) The Office of the Congressman/Congressmen of the District/s involved;
- (vi) The Office of the Mayor/s of the city/ies involved;
- (vii) Such other members as the taskforce may invite to participate, including relevant United Nations agencies, regional organizations and Foreign NGOs.

1 c. The Taskforce shall provide technical advice on preparedness for the
2 facilitation of international disaster assistance to the NDRRMC. In fulfilling this
3 role, the Taskforce shall:

4 (i) Prepare and update manuals, guidelines, plans or other procedures for
5 the entry and coordination of international disaster relief and initial
6 recovery assistance;

7 (ii) Compile and update information on existing bilateral, regional and
8 international coordination mechanisms applicable the Philippines, and
9 provide technical advice to the NDRRMC on the further development of
10 such mechanisms;

11 (iii) Develop and maintain a list of personnel nominated by the relevant
12 Secretaries to participate in Single Window International Facilitation
13 Teams (SWIFTs), as described in Section 13, and to assist the
14 NDRRMC to convene the SWIFTs immediately upon the
15 commencement of an international disaster relief period pursuant to
16 Section 8, if required for the volume of international disaster assistance
17 expected;

18 (iv) Advise the NDRRMC on the development of technical quality standards
19 for international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance, as
20 described in Chapter IV of this Act;

21 (v) Develop, in accordance with Chapter V of this Act, procedures,
22 documentation requirements and information about the responsibilities
23 of assisting actors under this Act;

24 (vi) Undertake other tasks related to international disaster assistance,
25 as requested by the NDRRMC.

26 d. The taskforce shall meet:

- 1 (i) immediately upon the commencement of an international disaster relief
2 period pursuant to Section 8, to ensure the effective operation of the
3 SWIFTs described in Section 13 and to advise the NDRRMC on the
4 application of relevant procedures, manuals and other technical
5 materials concerning the facilitation of international disaster assistance;
6 and
7 (ii) otherwise as necessary, and in no case less frequently than twice per
8 year, to review national preparedness for implementing the provisions of
9 this Act and to carry out the functions assigned to it pursuant to this
10 Section.

11 **SEC. 13. *Single Window International Facilitation Teams (SWIFTs).* –**

- 12 a. Single Window International Facilitation Teams (SWIFTs) shall be established
13 in accordance with this Section, for the purpose of consolidating and expediting
14 the legal requirements concerning entry of incoming international disaster relief
15 and initial recovery personnel, goods, equipment and transport, as well as the
16 application process for eligibility, as described in Chapter V.
- 17 b. In consultation with the Taskforce, the NDRRMC shall establish the
18 membership, functions, authorities and operating procedures for the SWIFTs,
19 consistent with this Act and other relevant legislation.
- 20 c. The SWIFTs shall be composed of representatives of relevant Departments
21 and Agencies, from the list established and updated by the Taskforce in
22 accordance with Section 12.
- 23 d. Upon the commencement of an international disaster relief period pursuant to
24 Section 8, SWIFTs shall be deployed to primary points of entry for international
25 disaster assistance, including, as circumstances dictate, relevant airports,
26 seaports and land border crossing points.

e. In the absence of a SWIFT team at a particular border crossing, officials of the Bureau of Customs shall nevertheless apply the relevant provisions of this Act.

SEC. 14. Operational Coordination of Assisting International Actors. –

a. National and local authorities shall endeavour to integrate the role of assisting international actors into their contingency planning and mechanisms for operational coordination for disaster relief and initial recovery assistance efforts. In particular, they shall endeavour to facilitate the work of assisting international actors, while balancing the urgent needs of people affected by disaster and necessary safeguards relating to public safety and health, coordination and oversight.

b. Assisting international actors shall cooperate and coordinate with National and local authorities in their disaster relief and initial recovery assistance. In particular, they shall provide them with such information as is available to them on the needs, and on the location, type and extent of their disaster relief and initial recovery assistance operations, as required for a coordinated and effective response.

c. Assisting international actors shall cooperate with any international or regional mechanisms for coordination that have been specifically approved for a particular operation by the NDRRMC.

SEC. 15. Limited Exemption from Privacy of Personal Data. – Public authorities and assisting actors shall be permitted to share personally identifiable information concerning disaster-affected persons among themselves for the purpose of avoiding imminent death or physical harm to individuals, or grave and foreseeable harm to public health or safety, or for facilitating family reunification

CHAPTER IV
General Responsibilities of Assisting Actors

SEC. 16. Principles of International Disaster Assistance. –

a. Assisting actors shall comply with the principles of humanity and impartiality in providing international disaster assistance. In particular, they shall establish their aid priorities on the basis of need alone and they shall not:

(i) engage in any adverse distinctions, exclusions or preferences based on status, such as nationality, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or political opinion;

(ii) seek to further a particular political or religious standpoint or interfere in internal matters irrelevant to disaster response;

(iii) seek to obtain commercial gain from their assistance;

(iv) gather sensitive information of a political, economic or military nature that is irrelevant to International Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance.

b. In addition, non-governmental organizations shall comply with the principle of independence. In particular, they shall not act as instruments of the foreign policy of any government.

SEC. 17. Respect for the Dignity of Persons Affected by Disaster. – Assisting

actors providing international disaster assistance shall respect the dignity of persons affected by a disaster. In particular, they shall consult with the beneficiaries of their assistance in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the disaster relief and initial recovery assistance they provide.

SEC. 18. Quality of Goods and Services. – Assisting actors shall ensure that the

goods and services they provide are appropriate to the needs and circumstances of persons affected by the disaster and in compliance with the requirements of this Act and all applicable laws of the Philippines. Assisting actors shall additionally comply

with technical quality standards as contained by regulations to be developed by the NDRRMC.

SEC. 19. *Disposal of Unusable Goods, Non-Functioning Equipment and other Waste.* – Assisting actors shall ensure that any goods or equipment they import for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance, which are or which have become unusable, as well as any other waste products produced by them in the course of their disaster relief or initial recovery assistance operations, are recycled or otherwise disposed of in a safe, environmentally sensitive and effective manner in compliance with Philippine laws.

CHAPTER V

Eligibility for Legal Facilities

SEC. 20. *Provision of Legal Facilities to Eligible Actors.* –

- a. The legal facilities described in Chapter VI are available only to eligible actors as described in this chapter and are effective only during the international disaster relief and initial recovery periods. Unless otherwise stated in Chapter VI, the legal facilities are equally effective during both of those periods.
- b. All of the legal facilities described in Chapter VI shall be available to assisting international actors deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21, or approved as eligible pursuant to Section 22.
- c. The legal facilities described in Parts 1 to 5 in Chapter VI shall only be available to assisting domestic actors deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21 or approved as eligible pursuant to Section 22, with respect to international personnel, goods, equipment and transport they bring to the country from abroad to provide disaster relief or initial recovery assistance.

SEC. 21. *Deemed Eligibility for Legal Facilities for Certain Assisting Actors.* –

1 a. Upon the commencement of an international disaster relief period pursuant to
2 Section 8, the following assisting international actors shall be deemed eligible
3 to receive the legal facilities described in Chapter VI of this Act without a further
4 application process pursuant to Section 22:

5 (i) Assisting States;

6 (ii) Relevant intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations and
7 regional organizations;

8 (iii) Any other assisting actor that the NDRRMC wishes to deem eligible.

9 b. In order to facilitate access to the legal facilities, the NDRRMC shall provide
10 assisting international actors described in Subsection (a) a certificate of
11 eligibility, upon their request.

12 **SEC. 22. *Application for Eligibility for Legal Facilities by Assisting Actors.* –**

13 a. With the exception of those deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21, assisting
14 actors seeking eligibility shall apply in accordance with this Section. Assisting
15 international actors may apply only if they are recognized as a legal person in
16 a foreign country or under international law.

17 b. The eligibility of private businesses for legal facilities shall be limited to
18 assistance from which they make no profit or other commercial gain.

19 c. Applications for eligibility may be made in advance of any disaster, or after the
20 onset of a disaster. In the event that eligibility for legal facilities is granted in
21 advance of a disaster, it will remain valid for 1 year, after which a new
22 application is required. The legal facilities will enter into legal effect only during
23 an international disaster relief or initial recovery period.

24 d. All Assisting Actors seeking eligibility shall submit:

25 (i) certified copies of documents evidencing their legal personality in a
26 foreign jurisdiction or under international law, in the case of assisting

- 1 international actors, or under the laws of the Philippines, in the case of
2 assisting domestic actors;
- 3 (ii) the name and full contact details of the authorized representative of the
4 organization and the address of its headquarters, if any, in the
5 Philippines;
- 6 (iii) documentation relating to their previous experience and current capacity
7 in providing effective disaster relief or initial recovery assistance;
- 8 (iv) an undertaking relating to their organizational commitment and practices
9 concerning the responsibilities set out in Chapter IV.

10 **SEC. 23. *Eligibility Determination and Certificates.* –**

- 11 a. The NDRRMC shall respond to any application under Section 22 by either
12 approving it and issuing a certificate of eligibility for the relevant Chapter VI
13 legal facilities, or by giving notice that the application has not been approved.
- 14 (i) For applications made during the international disaster relief period, the
15 NDRRMC shall respond no later than 2 days after receipt of all required
16 documents.
- 17 (ii) For applications made after the termination of an international disaster
18 relief period but during an international initial recovery period, the
19 NDRRMC shall respond no later than 5 days after receipt Of all required
20 documents.
- 21 b. Applications from assisting actors with significant experience will be accepted
22 unless the documentation provided or external information raises doubts as to
23 their capacities, in which case, additional opinions and information may be
24 gathered prior to making a determination.
- 25 c. Upon approval of an application pursuant to Section 22 or upon the request of
26 an assisting actor deemed eligible pursuant to Section 21, the NDRRMC shall

1 issue a certificate indicating that the assisting actor is eligible for the relevant
2 Chapter VI legal facilities. In the case of a domestic assisting actor, the
3 certificate shall state that the eligibility extends to the legal facilities in Parts 1
4 to 5 of Chapter VI.

5 d. A certificate issued in accordance with this Section shall be valid for a period of
6 1 year from the date of issue and may be renewed through a new decision
7 under Section 20 or Section 22.

8 **SEC. 24. *Termination of Eligibility for Legal Facilities.*** – Eligibility of assisting
9 actors for the relevant Chapter VI legal facilities may be terminated upon the request
10 of the eligible actor concerned or upon the termination of the legal facilities for failure
11 to comply with this Act, pursuant to Section 56 of this Act.

12 **CHAPTER VI**
13 **Legal Facilities for Eligible Actors**

14 **Part 1**
15 **International Personnel**

16 **SEC. 25. *Disaster Visa.*** – The international personnel of eligible actors shall be
17 entitled to waiver of entry visa requirements, including any associated fees or
18 charges. International personnel who enter Philippines under this Disaster Personnel
19 visa waiver shall be allowed to undertake disaster relief and initial recovery work for
20 their sponsoring entities without the requirement to seek a separate residence or work
21 permit. As long as they continue as international personnel of their sponsoring entities,
22 they shall be entitled to remain in or re-enter the territory as often as necessary
23 throughout the international disaster relief and international initial recovery periods.
24 After that time, they may apply for a relevant visa from within the country.

25 **SEC. 26. *Reception of Foreign Professional Qualifications.*** –

1 a. Eligible assisting actors wishing to deploy international personnel for tasks
2 requiring legal recognition of their foreign professional qualifications shall certify
3 the validity of those qualifications and the competence of their personnel for the
4 tasks envisaged.

5 b. Within six months of the entry into force of this Act, the Department of Foreign
6 Affairs shall establish lists of countries and/or educational institutions whose
7 health professionals, architectural, engineering and other relevant
8 professionals may be given automatic recognition of their foreign qualifications
9 when certified by an eligible assisting actor pursuant to subsection (a) of this
10 Section. The lists shall be reviewed at least once per year and published
11 electronically.

12 c. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall also establish expedited procedures to
13 be applied for the assessment and recognition of the foreign qualifications of
14 the international personnel originating from countries or institutions not included
15 on the above-mentioned lists, when certified by their sponsoring eligible
16 assisting actor pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section.

17 d. Recognition of qualifications under this Section shall exempt international
18 personnel of eligible actors from any obligations for compulsory membership
19 of professional associations or other professional registration processes within
20 Philippines until the end of the international initial recovery period.

21 e. Recognition of qualifications under this Section shall remain valid until the end
22 of the international initial recovery period, absent individual criminal conduct,
23 or other professional misconduct sufficient to bar the individual from
24 professional practice in the Philippines.

25 **SEC. 27. Recognition of Foreign Driving Licenses.** – The Land Transportation
26 Office (LTO) and other relevant authorities shall accord temporary recognition of

1 the foreign driving licenses of the international personnel of eligible actors, during
2 the international disaster response and initial recovery periods.

3 **SEC. 28. *Freedom of Access.* –**

4 a. The international personnel of eligible actors under this Act shall be provided
5 freedom of access to disaster-affected areas and persons requiring disaster
6 relief or initial recovery assistance, subject only to limitations based on national
7 security, public order or public health, weighed in the context of the urgency of
8 the disaster needs. They shall be permitted to provide their goods and services
9 directly to affected persons.

10 b. In situations where the relevant authorities have decided to restrict public
11 access to affected areas out of concern for the safety of those persons seeking
12 to enter, they shall warn the international personnel of eligible actors, but allow
13 them to enter, if they may do so without endangering others and if the
14 international personnel assume the risk.

15 **Part 2**

16 **Entry of International Disaster Goods and Equipment**

17 **SEC. 29. *Customs Facilitation and Priority Treatment.* –** As further described in
18 this Part, the Bureau of Customs shall facilitate the rapid importation of consignments
19 of goods and equipment by eligible actors and shall accord them priority treatment in
20 handling.

21 **SEC. 30. *Duty of Compliance of Eligible Actors.* –** In order to benefit from the
22 legal facilities in this part, eligible actors shall:

23 a. declare that all the goods and equipment they seek to import under this
24 Part are exclusively for disaster relief or initial recovery assistance and that
25 they comply with any relevant standards under national law, including

as provided in this Act or its regulations; and

- b. pack, classify and mark their consignments in accordance with the requirements described in this part and as directed by the Bureau of Customs.

SEC. 31. *Representation to Customs.* – Eligible actors may make representations directly to the Bureau of Customs with respect to their international disaster assistance consignments or through a designated third party acting on their behalf.

SEC. 32. *Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes and Restrictions.* –

Consignments of goods and equipment by or on behalf of eligible actors shall benefit from:

- a. exemption from all duties and taxes;
- b. waiver of economic prohibitions and restrictions except for categories of special goods and equipment as provided in Part 3 of this Act; and
- c. clearance without regard to the country of origin or the country from which the goods have arrived, subject to monitoring for reasons of public health and security.

SEC. 33. *Simplification of Document Requirements.* – The Bureau of Customs shall:

- a. clear or release consignments of goods and equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors on the basis of a simplified/provisional goods declaration providing the minimum information necessary for the Bureau of Customs to identify the goods and equipment: Provided, that eligible actors are subject to completion of a more complete declaration within a specified period;
- b. allow a single goods declaration for all imports of goods or equipment by or on behalf of eligible actors;

1 c. allow the goods declaration and any supporting documents relating to
2 consignments of goods or equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors to
3 be lodged electronically and without any fee;

4 d. allow the lodging and registering or checking of the goods declaration and
5 supporting documents prior to the arrival of consignments of goods or
6 equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors, to facilitate their release
7 upon arrival;

8 e. waive any requirement of translation of details in documents relating to
9 consignments of goods or equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors
10 unless it is absolutely necessary for the purposes of release or clearance.

11 **SEC. 34. *Extended Hours for Customs.*** – During the international disaster relief
12 period only, the Bureau of Customs shall:

13 a. upon request, and without additional charges, carry out the functions
14 necessary for the release or clearance of consignments of goods or
15 equipment imported by or on behalf of eligible actors outside their designated
16 hours of business and/or away from customs offices when necessary; and

17 b. coordinate with the business hours and competencies of any other relevant
18 Departments involved in the approval of incoming consignments and, whenever
19 possible, carry out joint operations, such as joint customs controls, including
20 participation in SWIFTs, if established under Section 13 of this Act.

21 **SEC. 35. *Inspections and Customs Security.*** – During the international disaster
22 relief period only, the Bureau of Customs shall:

23 a. on the basis of risk analysis, take only such action as it deems essential to
24 ensure compliance with customs and related laws for the purpose of checking
25 the goods declaration of a consignment sent by or on behalf of eligible actors;

b. waive, as feasible, any customs security that would normally be required in respect of consignments of goods and equipment imported on or behalf of eligible actors.

Part 3

Expedited Entry and Use Restrictions for Specific International Disaster Goods and Equipment

SEC. 36. Telecommunications Equipment. —

a. Eligible actors shall be permitted to import telecommunications equipment for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance without restrictions, except as required for purposes of national security or public order.

b. Upon notification of the names, frequencies, as applicable, and locations of intended use of such telecommunications equipment imported by eligible actors, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) shall waive any licensing requirements or fees for their use.

c. The NTC shall also grant eligible actors priority over domestic users with the exception of security forces, ambulance services and other domestic emergency responders in access to bandwidth, frequencies and satellite use for telecommunications and data transfer associated with disaster relief and initial recovery assistance.

SEC. 37. Medications. –

a. Eligible actors shall be permitted to import medications and medical equipment for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance so long as they conform to the requirements of this Section.

b. Any such medications and medical equipment shall be appropriate to the needs of the disaster-affected persons, and shall be legal for use in the country of origin according to its laws as well as in Philippines according to appropriate laws on pharmaceuticals. Pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) below, a

1 distinction shall otherwise be made between medications intended to be
2 donated for the use of others and those that eligible actors intend to use directly
3 in providing medical services.

4 c. Medications that eligible actors intend to use directly in providing medical
5 services in disaster relief or initial recovery assistance shall be:

6 (i) transported and maintained by the eligible actor in appropriate conditions
7 at all times to ensure their quality and;

8 (ii) guarded against misappropriation and abuse.

9 d. Medications intended for donation for the use of others shall be:

10 (i) at least 12 months from their expiry date upon arrival, unless otherwise
11 specifically agreed by the Department of Health (DOH);

12 (ii) transported and maintained by the eligible actor in appropriate conditions
13 to ensure their quality until they reach their intended domestic recipients;
14 and

15 (iii) appropriately labelled in a language understood in the affected State with
16 the international non-proprietary name or generic name, batch
17 number, dosage form, strength, name of manufacturer, quantity in the
18 container, storage conditions and expiry date.

19
20 **SEC. 38. Food.** – Food imported by eligible actors shall be admitted pursuant to
21 expedited procedures set out by regulations to be developed within 6 months from the
22 effectivity of this Act by the DOH and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

23 **SEC. 39. Imported Vehicles.** – The LTO shall grant temporary recognition to foreign
24 registration and plates to vehicles imported by eligible actors during the international
25 disaster relief period and the international initial recovery period.

SEC. 40. *Search Dogs.* – Search dogs imported temporarily by eligible actors shall be admitted without the need for quarantine so long as they meet the conditions and requirements of special regulations to be developed within 6 months from the effectivity of this Act by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Part 4

Permitted Disposition of Equipment and Unused Goods

SEC. 41. *Disposition of Equipment and Unused Goods.* –

a. This part sets out the permitted disposition of goods or equipment for which eligible actors have received waivers or exemptions from fees, duties, taxes or other charges pursuant to this chapter and which remain in their possession as of the end of their disaster relief and initial recovery assistance operations.

b. Such goods and equipment may be:

- (i) retained by eligible actors that are non-profit entities and used or distributed by them for humanitarian, development or charitable purposes in the Philippines;
- (ii) re-exported pursuant to Section 42;
- (iii) donated pursuant to Section 43; or
- (iv) disposed of pursuant to Section 19.

c. Additionally, such goods and equipment may be sold, but only:

- (i) after the termination of the initial recovery period; and
- (ii) with payment of all fees, duties, taxes or charges that were previously waived or exempted for these items under this Chapter.

SEC. 42. *Re-Export of Goods and Equipment.* – Eligible actors that import equipment or goods benefitting from the legal facilities in this chapter are permitted to re-export any equipment or unused goods and to do so without the imposition of any taxes, export duties, or similar charges, provided that:

- 1 a. re-export is commenced no later than 2 months after the termination of the
2 international initial recovery period; and
- 3 b. they provide documentation that the equipment and goods in question were
4 originally imported for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance
5 pursuant to this Chapter.

6 **SEC. 43. *Donation of Unused Goods and Equipment.*** – When they are no longer
7 needed for their disaster relief or initial recovery assistance, eligible actors are
8 permitted to donate any imported or locally purchased goods and equipment without
9 the imposition of any taxes, fees, duties, or similar charges on either the donor or the
10 beneficiary, provided that:

- 11 a. the donation is made no later than two months after the termination of the
12 international initial recovery period;
- 13 b. the eligible assisting international actor provides documentation to the BOC
14 and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on the identity of the importer or
15 purchaser, the date of import or purchase, and the fact that the item or group
16 of items was imported or purchased pursuant to the legal facilities in this
17 chapter;
- 18 c. the beneficiary of the donation is the Philippine Red Cross, a domestic NGO,
19 or other non-profit charitable or humanitarian organization established in the
20 Philippines; and
- 21 d. any items thus donated may not be sold unless fees, duties, taxes or charges
22 that were previously waived or exempted for these items under this Chapter are
23 paid.

1 **SEC. 44. *Facilitation of Means of Transport.*** – Ground, air and water transport
2 vehicles operated by or on behalf of eligible assisting actors to transport international
3 and locally engaged personnel, goods, or equipment for the purposes of disaster relief
4 or initial recovery assistance shall:

- 5 a. priority in air traffic routing and landing permissions subject to existing laws,
6 rules and regulations of the proper authorities.
- 7 b. Be exempt from any applicable taxes, levies, duties, fees or charges normally
8 imposed by governmental entities of the Philippines, including, but not limited
9 to:
 - 10 (i) over flight, landing, parking, taking off and navigation service fees;
 - 11 (ii) demurrage and docking fees; and
 - 12 (iii) road tolls.
- 13 c. Be exempt from any prohibitions, limitations or restrictions in respect of their
14 arrival, overflight, landing, stay and departure, other than those necessary to
15 guarantee national security, public safety or public health.

16 **SEC. 45. *Entry of Transport Operators.*** –The appropriate authorities shall
17 endeavour to reduce and expedite any procedures for the entry of drivers, pilots and
18 crew of transport vehicles operated by on or behalf of eligible actors.

19 **SEC. 46. *Notice of Transport.*** – To facilitate the provision of the legal facilities in
20 this part, eligible assisting actors or their carriers shall:

- 21 a. inform the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) in advance of
22 the intended route of flights, type and call signs of the aircraft, number of crew
23 members, the character of the cargo, time-table of flights, and the list of
24 all passengers, and shall comply with any directions from the CAAP as
25 to air traffic control and landing procedures.

b. inform the relevant marine authority in advance, of the intended port or location of arrival of each water vessel, the type, make and registration number of each vessel, the number of personnel operating and on board each vessel and the equipment, facilities and other materials on board each vessel, and shall comply with any directions from the relevant authority as to the control of incoming vessels or docking procedures.

Part 6 Legal Capacity and Employment

SEC. 47. *Legal Capacity of Assisting International Actors.* – Legal Capacity of

Assisting International Actors — The status of eligibility for legal facilities of an assisting international actor includes such legal capacity as may be relevant for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purposes in providing international disaster relief or initial recovery assistance in accordance with the laws of Philippines during the international disaster relief and initial recovery periods, in particular the capacity to:

- a. open bank accounts;
- b. enter into contracts, including leases;
- c. acquire and dispose of movable property;
- d. receive and disburse private funds;
- e. initiate legal proceedings;
- f. engage and terminate locally engaged personnel, as set out in Section 49 of this Act.

SEC. 48. *Engagement and Termination of Locally Engaged Personnel.* –

- a. Subject to Section 4 of this Act, and except as provided in this Section, all eligible assisting international actors shall comply with the applicable law in Philippines with regard to the employment of locally engaged personnel;

b. Eligible assisting international actors shall not be required to make any separate registration as employers, including for the purposes of taxation, social security, and social insurance registration requirements relating to the employment of locally engaged personnel.

c. Notwithstanding any provisions of labor and employment laws to the contrary, eligible assisting international actors may:

(i) recruit any individual legally entitled to perform the work envisaged in Philippines through a non-discriminatory process;

(ii) engage local personnel pursuant to fixed-term contracts, which may be of short duration, and may be renewed as required without creating an open-ended obligation.

SEC. 49. *Jurisdiction over International Personnel.* – Jurisdiction concerning contracts between eligible assisting international actors and international personnel engaged by them shall be determined based on the application Philippine laws on jurisdiction.

Part 7

Taxation of Eligible Assisting International Actors

SEC. 50. *Value-Added Tax (VAT).* –

a. The supply of disaster relief and initial recovery assistance by an eligible assisting international actor shall be exempt from all vat, service taxes and similar taxes, duties, levies and governmental fees where such supply takes place during the international disaster relief or initial recovery periods. Eligible assisting international actors shall also be exempt from registration for vat during the same periods.

b. In providing this legal facility the BIR shall take all practical steps to ensure that local suppliers suffer no negative financial or administrative impact in providing goods or services to eligible assisting international actors.

SEC. 51. *Income Tax.* –

a. The activities of an eligible assisting international actor carried on for the purpose of providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance shall be subject to income tax on any actual or deemed income or gain arising from such activities.

b. The international personnel of an eligible assisting international actor shall not be treated as a resident of the Philippines or as having any other connection with the Philippines relevant for taxation purposes by reason of their presence in the Philippines or activities undertaken there during the international disaster relief and initial recovery periods except in instances where any actual or deemed income or gain is realized.

SEC. 52. *Property, Assets and Other Similar Taxes.* – During the international disaster relief or international initial recovery periods, no taxes, duties, levies or governmental fees having similar effect shall accrue or be payable by eligible assisting international actors in connection with:

a. land, a building or any part of a building where such land, building or part thereof is wholly or primarily used by an eligible assisting international actor for the purpose of disaster relief or initial recovery assistance; and

b. the assets of an eligible assisting international actor.

1 **SEC. 53. *Right to Bring Necessary Funds and Currencies into the Country.*** – The

2 Department of Finance (DOF) shall facilitate the entry of such funds and
3 currencies by eligible assisting international actors to provide disaster relief and initial
4 recovery assistance.

5 **SEC. 54. *Preferential Exchange Rates.*** – The DOF shall make available to eligible

6 assisting international actors the best available legal exchange rates into the state's
7 currency for funds to be used for the purpose of providing disaster relief or initial
8 recovery assistance.

9 **CHAPTER VII**
10 **Supervision, Reporting and Sanctions**

11 **SEC. 55. *Supervision of Assisting Actors.*** –

12 a. The NDRRMC shall be responsible for monitoring the compliance of assisting
13 actors with their responsibilities under this Act, and in particular Chapter IV.

14 b. To facilitate the NDRRMC's oversight, it may require assisting actors to report
15 to it, at reasonable intervals, about the disaster relief and initial recovery
16 assistance they provide. These reports shall be made public through electronic
17 means.

18 c. Any reporting requirements imposed by the NDRRMC under this Section shall
19 be designed so as to reduce any administrative burden on assisting actors to
20 the minimum necessary.

21 **Section 56. *Non-Compliance by Assisting Actors.*** —

22 a. If, on the basis of credible information, the NDRRMC suspects that any
23 assisting actor has failed to materially comply with its responsibilities under this
24 Act, and in particular its responsibilities under Chapter IV, it shall immediately
25 consult with the assisting actor and seek clarification or explanation. If

1 still unsatisfied, the NDRRMC shall provide written notice of non-compliance
2 along with a decision either:

3 (i) to require the assisting actor to bring itself into compliance within a
4 specified period of time, with or without temporary suspension of its
5 eligibility, if any, for legal facilities under Chapter VI;

6 (ii) to revoke the assisting actor's eligibility, if any, for legal facilities under
7 Chapter VI;

8 (iii) in the case of deliberate misrepresentation or fraud, to impose fines to
9 be set out by implementing regulation; or

10 (iv) in the most extreme cases concerning an assisting international actor, to
11 revoke the Philippine's consent for it to provide disaster relief or initial
12 recovery assistance in response to the disaster.

13 b. In the event of a decision to revoke pursuant to subsection (a)(iv) of this
14 Section, if the assisting international actor lacks a legal basis independent of
15 this Act to remain in the country, it may be required to depart, as of a date no
16 sooner than 30 days from the date of the notice.

17 c. Decisions to suspend or revoke legal facilities pursuant to subsections (a)(i) or
18 (a)(ii) of this Section may not be given retroactive effect, except in cases of
19 fraud or criminal misconduct attributable to the assisting international
20 actor.

21 **Section 57. Transparency as to Internationally Donated Funds. —**

22 a. Internationally donated funds received by the Government of the Philippines for
23 the purposes of disaster relief and initial recovery assistance shall be subject
24 to audit by the Commission on Audit (COA) no later than six months after the
25 termination of the international disaster relief period or the international initial
26 recovery period. The results of these audits shall be made publicly available.

1 b. International donated funds received by assisting domestic actors shall be:

2 (i) maintained in a dedicated account for disaster relief or initial recovery
3 assistance;

4 (ii) subjected to an external audit no later than six months after the
5 termination of the international disaster relief period or the
6 international initial recovery period, whichever is sooner. The results of
7 these audits shall be reported to the appropriate authority and made
8 publicly available.

9 **Section 58. Congressional Oversight Committee.** – A Congressional Oversight
10 Committee is hereby created to be composed of the 3 members each from the Senate
11 and the House of Representatives who shall be designated by the Senate President
12 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives: provided, that 1 of the 3 Senators
13 and 1 of the 3 House members shall be nominated by the respective minority leaders
14 of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

15 The Oversight Committee is hereby mandated to oversee the implementation of this
16 act. For this purpose, the Oversight Committee shall set the guidelines and overall
17 framework for the monitoring of the implementation of this Act and shall adopt its
18 internal rules of procedures.

19 **Section 59. Annual Reporting on Implementation.** – The NDRRMC shall report
20 annually to the Congressional Oversight Committee created by Section 58 of this Act
21 on steps taken to implement this Act, including preparedness measures taken prior to
22 a disaster.

23 **Section 60. Sanction for Non-Compliance by Officials.** – Officials of the Philippines
24 that fail to abide by their responsibilities under this Act shall be subject to

administrative sanctions, without prejudice to any civil or criminal liability under other laws that might also attach to the official's actions or omissions.

CHAPTER VIII

Transit of International Disaster Assistance

Section 61. *Facilitation for Transit.* – In the event a Disaster occurs in another country for which international disaster assistance is required the BOC and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) shall facilitate the speedy transit or transshipment across the national territory of the Philippines of international disaster assistance by assisting international actors, including international personnel, goods, equipment and transport, in order to reach the affected country,

Section 62. *Transit Facilities Period.* –

a. When, after seeking the views of the relevant authorities of a disaster affected country, the BOC and the BI are satisfied that international disaster relief or initial recovery assistance is likely to be required and that the transit or transshipment of international personnel, goods or equipment through its territory is likely to be helpful, the BOC and the BI may declare the beginning of a Transit Facilities Period.

b. The Transit Facilities Period shall continue until terminated by the BOC and the BI, when they are satisfied that Transit Facilities are no longer required.

c. The termination of a Transit Facilities Period shall be announced to assisting international actors no later than 5 days prior to the proposed date.

d. The transit facilities described in this Chapter shall be effective only during the Transit Facilities Period.

Section 63. *Entitlement to Transit Facilities.* –

1 a. Subject to subsection (b), all assisting international actors shall be
2 entitled to the Transit Facilities provided in this Chapter upon declaration
3 that the international personnel, equipment and goods that they seek
4 to send in transit through the Philippines are for the purpose of providing
5 international disaster relief or initial recovery assistance to a disaster-
6 affected country.

7 b. The BOC and the BI may deny transit facilities to any assisting
8 international actor, in case of actual or suspected fraud or if necessary
9 to safeguard national security or public health.

10 **Section 64. *Disaster Transit Visa.*** – International Personnel entering the
11 Philippines for the purpose of transit to a disaster-affected country shall be
12 entitled to waiver of entry visa requirements, including any associated fees or
13 charges on the condition that they exit the territory of the Philippines within a
14 period of 24 hours.

15 **Section 65. *Goods and Equipment in Transit and Transshipment.*** – The provisions
16 of Parts 2 and 3 of Chapter VI shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to consignments of
17 goods and equipment by eligible actors, when placed under customs transit
18 or transshipment to an affected country.

19 **Section 66. *Transport for Transit and Transshipment.*** – The provisions of Part 5
20 of Chapter VI shall also apply mutatis mutandis, to the ground, air and water
21 vehicles of eligible actors in transit through the territorial lands, waters or
22 airspace of the Philippines to provide international disaster relief or initial
23 recovery assistance to an affected country.

24 **CHAPTER IX**
25 **Implementation, Transitional and Final Provisions**

1 **Section 67. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.*** – The NDRRMC together with
2 the DOF, BIR, BOC, LTO and other government agencies mentioned in this
3 Act shall draft the rules and regulations concerning all matters which are
4 required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary to carry this Act
5 into effect or to give effect to any power, function, duty, or authority under this
6 Act.

7 **Section 68. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act, or the
8 application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid or
9 unconstitutional, the remaining sections of this Act or the application of such
10 provision or part hereof to other persons or circumstance shall remain in full
11 force and effect.

12 **Section 69. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and
13 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
14 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

15 **Section 70. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 approval and publication in the Official Gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of
17 general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

18 Approved,