

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6960, August 07, 1990]

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR THE AID, RELIEF, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PERSONS AND AREAS AFFECTED AND FOR THE SURVEY, REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE EARTHQUAKES OF JULY 16, 1990 AND THEIR AFTERSHOCKS

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to help and assist the victims or their legal heirs in those communities heavily damaged by the earthquakes of July 16, 1990 by extending to them adequate aid, relief, and reconstruction services to the end that life may return to normal at the earliest possible time.

Countless persons and organizations, here and abroad, as well as foreign governments, have spontaneously and unselfishly contributed their time, effort, and money at the risk of their lives to the rescue and relief efforts. The State acknowledges such acts of compassion and humanity.

SEC. 2. *Statement of Objectives and Guidelines.* - This Act is intended to help the victims or their legal heirs in those communities which suffered heavy losses or damage from the earthquakes and their aftereffects. While the extent of damage cannot be compensated to the fullest, this Act aims to provide initial funds for the immediate relief of the victims or their legal heirs and to repair and reconstruct government infrastructure heavily damaged or destroyed by said calamity.

The term "victims" when used for the purposes of this Act refers to individuals who sustained serious injuries or suffered death in the family as a result of the aforementioned earthquakes. It also includes individuals whose homes have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable requiring aid in the form of accommodation in temporary shelters and/or food sustenance while they are rebuilding their dwelling places.

Government funds and resources herein appropriated shall be spent judiciously and effectively, in consonance with the principle of providing the greatest good for the greatest number. Accordingly, the following guidelines shall be taken into consideration in allocating the funds made available under this Act:

1. In the repair and reconstruction of government infrastructure and facilities, priority shall be given to such projects as roads, bridges, and other means of communication, hospitals, school buildings, irrigation systems, canals and water systems, municipal buildings, public markets, and the like;