



COA to trace and monitor all foreign aid for Yolanda victims

By [Kim Arveen Patria](#) | Yahoo Southeast Asia Newsroom – 10 hours ago

Worried about what will happen to all the aid coming to the Philippines?

The government has just assured the public that aid pouring in from the international community will be properly used to assist victims of typhoon Yolanda.

Malacanang said the all pledges will be consolidated by the Department of Foreign Affairs before being allocated to agencies delivering rescue and relief services.

“What DFA does is collate and coordinate,” presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said Tuesday, adding that most of the funds are pledges and have yet to be sent.

“DFA [will] give us a list of the assistance, pledges of assistances and whether these pledges have been delivered,” Lacierda said in Palace briefing.

Pledges from foreign governments and development organizations so far totaled to nearly P3.8 billion, excluding logistic support and donations in kind.

The biggest financial pledges included those from the UN (P1.1 billion), Japan (P435 million), the United Arab Emirates and (P431 million) the United Kingdom (P414 million).

DFA has compiled a [matrix of international assistance](#), noting that the number of donors has risen to 36. Not all of the in-kind donations are assigned monetary values.

The office of Commission on Audit Chairman Grace Pulido-Tan has meanwhile confirmed that it will be assisting in the monitoring of foreign aid for Yolanda.

Commissioner Heidi Mendoza has been tasked to look into the funds and how they will be used for rescue and relief operations, Tan’s aide said in a phone interview.

A former Cabinet official said taking note of all donations would boost confident in government, especially in a time of controversies involving public funds.

“All donations should be accounted for, recorded and submitted to COA, since they would become public funds,” former National Treasurer Leonor Briones said.

The influx of foreign aid comes amid a scandal accusing lawmakers and other high-ranking officials of misusing Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF).

The so-called pork barrel scam has enraged Filipinos nationwide prodding President Benigno Aquino III to call for its abolition and realignment to line agencies.

“Pork barrel” hate has also spread to Aquino’s discretionary funds as well as the economic stimulus dubbed the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP).

“What is important is monitoring and letting the people know that the money will be spent according to how donors intended for it to be spent,” Briones said in a phone interview.

“The public is now very involved in the process. People will care about the money that comes in—whether it comes from governments or the private sector,” she added.

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