



Serve the People Brigade

Cordillera Disaster Response Network

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URGENT APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TYPHOONS OMPONG AND ROSITA IN THE CORDILLERA, PHILIPPINES

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all organizations, institutions, schools and individuals for the donations and spirit of volunteerism that made possible the Serve the People Brigade (STPB) – Cordillera Disaster Response Network’s relief operations after strong typhoons Ompong ravaged the Cordillera on September 15.

Cordillera communities were yet to recover from the damages wrought by typhoon Ompong when another strong typhoon (Rosita/Yulu) hit the region on October 30, leaving more than 30 people killed in a massive mudslide in Natonin, Mountain Province, 6 in Ifugao and 2 in Kalinga province. As of today, relatives and volunteers are still conducting search and retrieval operations for 6 people who were buried in the Natonin landslide. Typhoon Rosita has also caused massive flooding, especially in communities and farmlands along the Chico River in Kalinga province. The Department of Agriculture estimated the agricultural damages of typhoon Rosita at more than P1.85 billion in northern Luzon.

In partnership with various donors and local peoples’ organizations, the Serve the People Brigade delivered relief packs, food for work for the collective clearing of mudslides, and cash assistance to communities severely affected by the typhoons, especially those that were barely reached by relief services of the government and other groups. Psychosocial support was also extended to communities and school children.

From September 20 until today, the STPB relief services have benefited about 6,100 families in at least 45 indigenous communities in the provinces of Benguet, Kalinga, Abra, Apayao, Ifugao, Mountain Province, and Baguio City. Farm tools were also distributed to indigenous communities in Ilocos Sur province. Initial relief operations of the STPB in Natonin, Mountain Province is ongoing.

In the conduct of relief operations, STPB volunteers also provided educational discussions on disaster preparedness and response, coping mechanisms in times of disaster, climate change and its impact on indigenous peoples, and the aggravating impacts of large-scale mining



and dams. The discussions also served as part of the psychosocial processing of communities.

In Itogon, Benguet where massive landslides claimed the lives of at least 97 people, communities continue to demand the accountability of Benguet Corporation in the Itogon mining disaster. The company has operated large-scale underground and open pit mining in the area since 1904. Itogon communities also demand for Benguet Corporation to leave Itogon and give back the land to its rightful owners – the Itogon people, stop its small-scale mining contract scheme, and rehabilitate the place.

To date, no investigation has been conducted by the Philippine government on the accountability of Benguet Corporation. Instead, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) declared the closure of small-scale mining operations, which resulted in the loss of livelihood of 40,000 small-scale miners and their families or almost 65% of the population of Itogon. This is met with fierce protest and defiance by small-scale miners and their families as they have no other livelihood sources and the DENR is not providing alternative livelihoods.

CONTINUING APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

The STPB continues to receive requests for immediate relief and rehabilitation support in the provinces of Abra, Benguet and Mountain Province. With this, we continue to appeal for support to help rebuild the lives of the victims of typhoon Ompong and typhoon Rosita. The immediate needs are:

- **For shelter and farmlands repair:** GI sheets, wood, hammers, nails, shovel, *bareta*, other basic construction materials
- **Food items for food-for-work and relief packs:** Rice, monggo/dried beans, dried fish, sugar, salt, cooking oil, canned goods
- **Non-food items:** Laundry soap, bath soap, underwears, cooking pot, flashlight with batteries, light blankets and sleeping mats
- **Medicines:** paracetamol, pain relievers, antacid, antibiotics, elastic bandages, gauze, hydrogen peroxide and betadine

FOR FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL DONATIONS, AND TO VOLUNTEER, visit us at **No. 55 Middle Ferguson Road, Baguio City** and look for **Mr. Santi Mero** (+63 917 685 5886), Serve the People Brigade Spokesperson and Cordillera Peoples Alliance Vice Chairperson for Internal Affairs or send an email to jlalog@gmail.com, cpa@cpaphils.org. You may also visit the Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services office at 119 Guisad Surong. **Those based in Manila may contact** Raven Desposado of TAKDER at 0956-996-5823, takderkordi@gmail.com.

Financial donations may be channeled by bank (details below) or through Paypal (email account cpaphils.1984@gmail.com):

<u>PESO ACCOUNT</u>	<u>US DOLLAR ACCOUNT</u>
Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Session Road, Baguio City. Account Name: Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Inc. Account Number: 1-326-72354-8 Swift Code: RCBCPHMM Routing Code: 120280014	Banco de Oro – Session Road Branch, National Life Building, Session Road, Baguio City Account Name: Cordillera Peoples Alliance Account Number: 105470156541 Swift/Routing Code: BNORPHMM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the families and communities that benefited from the relief goods distributed by the Serve the People Brigade (STPB) – Cordillera Disaster Response Network, the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services (CORDIS-RDS), Center for Development Programs in the Cordillera (CDPC), Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC), Cordillera Women’s Education, Action and Research Center (CWEARC), and Community Health, Education, Services and Trainings in the Cordillera (CHESTCORE) sincerely thank the following:

INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
Bahay Kubo Housing Association
BAYAN – Latin America
Beaconsfield Initiative – Canada
Binnadang Amianan
BPO Industry Employees Network
Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines – UK
Club 2000 Bermuda thru Marissa Macks Adderley
Coalition of Services of the Elderly, Inc. & Help Age International
Cordillera Human Rights Alliance
Cordillera Elders Alliance
DLLR, CORALL, UNIFIL-Migrante – Hong Kong
DL Silver, Inc.
Donglala – Japan & Hideyuki Kurita
Earth Action
Federation of Filipino Associations – Bologna, Italy
Filipino American Health Workers Association, Inc.
Filipino Community Parish – Amsterdam
Foundation for the Philippine Environment
Friends of the Earth – Japan
Hackney Chinese Community Services
Igorot Volunteers’ Initiative – Athens
Igorotak Nga Nataraki
Innabuyog-Gabriela
Insight Share
International Union for Nature Conservation - Netherlands
KAISA and Amite Foundation Hongkong
Kanlungan Alliance
Land is Life (USA)
Liberal Party Baguio Chapter
LIMA Taiwan
Matadores Riders
Migrante – British Columbia (Lara and Trevor)
National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and ACT Alliance
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)
Omega and Invited Artists – Gwen Bautista
Philippine Nurses Association – Cordillera and Region 2
Philippine Nurses Association – United Arab Emirates



Pilipinong Migrante sa Barrie (Canada)
 Pinatud – Anakbayan & Progressive Igorots for Social Action
 Priory Disaster Response, Socio Pastoral Apostolate, Missionary Benedictine Sisters
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 Redemptorist Church – Baclaran
 Regional Development Center – Katinnulong Dagiti Umili iti Amianan
 Rico's Fine Foods and Purified Drinking Water
 Salidummay – Benguet State University
 Simcoe County Kairos (Canada)
 Sulong Likha – Dap-ayan ti Kultura ti Kordilyera
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 The Filipino-Canadian Association of Barrie (Canada)
 The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
 The Samdhana Institute
 The CORE Workhub
 The United Church of Canada
 Tuason Center – Marikina (Socio Pastoral Apostolate)
 Tuklas Innovation & Caritas
 Tulong Kabataan

SCHOOLS

Baguio Central School Faculty
 BVS Colleges La Trinidad
 Easter College students
 Philippine Accountancy and Science School, Alaminos
 Saint Luis University students
 University of the Cordilleras students
 University of the Philippines Baguio faculty and students

INDIVIDUALS

Adcamang, Kate	Addamo, Sharry	Alangui, Willy
Alibcag, Steven	Angeles, Christine	Balageo, Jarren
Bautista, Gwen	Ben-Ari, Timna	Bernal, Jona
Bondoc, Jojo & family	Buenafe-Ze, Angela	Cabangon, Gwen
Cassiw, Antonette	Chan, Ed	Claver, Lingling
Corpuz, Rachel & Rochel	Cruz, Edward (Dr.)	Dela Cruz, Carl Michael Dulnuan,
Gayzel	Dumo, Maria Theresa	Fernandez, Remedios (Dr.) Franco, Carmelita
	Geloso, Mikhail Isaiah	Gongran, Renalyn
Gonzaga, Ramon and Cathy	Gumaru, Cielo	Gupit, Might (Dr.)
Harrison, Stuart	Hatae, Hozue	Ittiw, Jenelyn
Ilagan, Germ	Kayan, Audrey	Karell, Michelle
Kunnie, Julian	Lalio, Jessa	Lee, Aaron
Manuel, Maribel	Maranan, Ellen	Mendiola, Maida
Miguel, Feliz Ann	Molintas, Jose	Morales, Arbelle
Nicolas, Mary Leviel	Palaganas, Erlinda	Paleyan, Shane
Panlasigui, Marben	Parker, Tracy Mack	Parkes, Jane
Pierre, Billie	Realizan, Angelica	Sagisi, Jaymee Faith
Sta. Elena, Angelina (Dr.)	Taguba, Cesar & Family	Tao-ey, Jessary
Toma, Shisei	Umayat, Miford	

Thank you!