

11 March 2020

SEN. FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO

Chairperson

Committee on Urban Planning, Housing, and Resettlement

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City, Philippines

Dear **Senator TOLENTINO**:

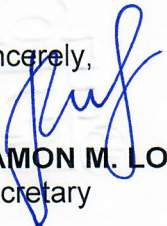
We are pleased to submit the Department's position on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 297, entitled:

“Resolution Directing the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing, and Resettlement, in Aid of Legislation, and in the Exercise of the Senate’s Oversight Functions to Urgently Call Upon the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and Other Relevant Agencies to Formulate a Sustainable Taal Volcano Resettlement and Rehabilitation Program”

This is without prejudice to the Department’s submission of additional inputs.

With my best regards.

Sincerely,


RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DTI Position on

**Proposed Senate
Resolution No. 297**

“Resolution Directing the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing, and Resettlement, in Aid of Legislation, and in the Exercise of the Senate’s Oversight Functions to Urgently Call Upon the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and Other Relevant Agencies to Formulate a Sustainable Taal Volcano Resettlement and Rehabilitation Program”

The Department supports the proposed Senate Resolution to urgently direct the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and other relevant agencies to formulate a sustainable Taal Volcano Resettlement and Rehabilitation Program.

The very recent geological events involving Taal volcano have affected people in nearby communities and their livelihoods. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) estimated that the economic loss from the volcanic eruption may have reached approximately PhP7.63 billion, bulk of which came from the services sector due to foregone income of PhP4.32 billion, followed by the agriculture, forestry, and fishery sector with PhP3.28 billion, and the industry sector with PhP27.16 million.¹ As the alert status for Taal volcano lowered to Level 2², some residents have returned to their homes. However, some of the houses were severely destroyed and without jobs to return to, the residents may find it difficult to rebuild their lives. This makes the role of government in post-disaster response very crucial.

The DTI’s role in post-disaster management involves the implementation of relevant livelihood development programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) that will provide assistance to those affected by the Taal volcanic eruption. One of the PAPs is the Livelihood Seeding Program – Programa sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa which provides livelihood kits to victims affected by both natural and man-made calamities. Other regular programs of DTI include Negosyo Center – Negosyo sa Barangay (NC-NSB) which brings the services of DTI’s Negosyo Centers to existing and potential micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) operating within barangays; and the SME Roving Academy (SMERA) which provides learning sessions on various business development topics such as entrepreneurial mind-setting, business registration, and other means to grow and expand businesses.

¹ <http://governance.neda.gov.ph/?p=7594>

² phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/taal-volcano-bulletin-menu/9828-taal-volcano-bulletin-05-march-2020-8-00-a-m

There is also a proposal to establish a Shared Service Facility (SSF) for a project or a sector that may be identified as a result of the Regional Post Disaster Needs Analysis spearheaded by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and NEDA. Moreover, the DTI – Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED) is closely coordinating with DTI's Region 4A office to request for the allotted budget dedicated to the Taal Rehabilitation efforts.

Ruyapin Chay

Bureau of Trade & Industrial Policy Research

10 March 2020

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