

# **DFA issues Guidelines to Foreign Service Posts on Assistance from Overseas Filipino Communities for those affected by Typhoon ‘Ondoy’**

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**PR-767-09**, 28 September 2009 – In the wake of the trail of devastation left by Typhoon “Ondoy,” Philippine foreign service posts have received inquiries from Filipino community groups and individuals overseas on how they could extend assistance to their fellow Filipinos in Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon who have been affected by the heavy torrential rains and widespread flood caused by the typhoon.

The Philippine Consulates General in Hong Kong, Los Angeles and Dubai, in particular, have been contacted by their respective Filipino communities which have expressed willingness to give donations to the victims of the calamity and started to mobilize community members, in line with the spirit of pagtutulungan and bayanihan.

In response to their queries, the Department of Foreign Affairs issued on Sunday a circular to Philippine embassies and consulates general on the mechanics of processing of donations from foreign sources, per the guidelines of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), specifically Administrative Order No. 53, Series of 2003 (Omnibus Guidelines in the Management and Processing of Donations) (<http://www.dswd.gov.ph/images/articles/AO53.pdf>).

Donations in cash for the typhoon victims can be deposited to the DSWD’s bank account, the details of which may be found in the DSWD’s website [www.dswd.gov.ph](http://www.dswd.gov.ph).

The DFA is closely coordinating with the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the DSWD on how assistance from Filipino communities overseas may be best harnessed to aid the flood victims.