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PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Executive Order No. 831: Authorizing the Department of Finance, for the Duration of the Current Emergency, Complete Discretion in Authorizing Tax and Tariff Exemptions for Relief Goods Donated from Abroad**

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago would like to inform the public and concerned Overseas Filipinos in the Midwest that Executive Order No. 831 was signed by Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on 01 October 2009.

Section 1 of the Executive Order, provides that *“for the duration of the emergency disaster currently existing, the Secretary of Finance shall have complete discretion in authorizing tax and tariff exemptions for relief goods donated from abroad, provided the donated relief goods, articles, equipment for free distribution to calamity declared areas and victims of calamities and/or disasters shall be for the account of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or any of the relief organizations, not operated for profit, duly registered with the DSWD.”*

The Executive Order also creates the One Stop Shop in all collection districts of the Bureau of Customs headed by the Department of Finance and composed of representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of National Defense (DND) and other government agencies, including the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Presently, the One Stop Shop is located at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Bureau of Customs near the NAIA II Terminal [Telephone No. (632) 879-5180] and is manned by agency representatives from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. (Philippine time). All collection districts of the Bureau of Customs are expected to put up their own One Stop Shops as soon as possible.

For other inquiries, the interested and concerned parties/donors may access the following official websites of Philippine government agencies: Bureau of Customs ([www.customs.gov.ph](http://www.customs.gov.ph)), Department of Social Welfare and Development ([www.dswd.gov.ph](http://www.dswd.gov.ph)), National Disaster Coordinating Council ([www.ndcc.gov.ph](http://www.ndcc.gov.ph)).

Chicago, 15 October 2009