

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Please refer to:

For the Public Commission

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**RECONSTRUCTION BODIES LINE UP FOUR PROJECTS
FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION**

The Special National Public Reconstruction Commission (the "Public Commission") and its private sector partner, the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation ("PDRF"), have identified four (4) projects for immediate implementation during its weekly meeting Tuesday. These projects are (1) the removal of water lilies that clog waterways, especially at Laguna de Bay; (2) putting up rain gauges for early warning, (3) treatment of flood victims with leptospirosis; and (4) repair of schools and classroom fixtures damaged by the recent typhoons.

Public Commission Chairman and Finance Secretary Gary Teves said all these projects would require public and private sector coordination and funding. For the clearing of the water lilies along Pasig River and at the Laguna de Bay, the PDRF plans to remove and then barge the water lilies to farm/compost site of the Philippine Business for Social Progress ("PBSP") located in Laguna. For this purpose, PDRF would need to work with the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) as well as concerned local government units (LGUs).

The PDRF is also consulting with PAG-ASA and the National Disaster Coordinating Council ("NDCC") for the proposed installation of rain gauges. "We want some quick and early wins," said PDRF Chairman Manny Pangilinan, who plans to put up the rain gauges at the cell sites of telecommunications firm Smart Communications Inc., which could power the gauges and transmit the data continuously to PAGASA.

Mr. Pangilinan also informed the Public Commission that PDRF, together with PBSP, is committed to helping the Government's health programs relating to the treatment of leptospirosis victims.

He added that the PDRF will assist in the rehabilitation and repair of schools and classroom desks and chairs which were damaged by the recent typhoons.

Secretary Teves said that for the health programs, the private sector will be working with the Department of Health and for the education programs, they will closely coordinate with the Department of Education. "We are really looking forward to a

productive and effective partnership with the private sector for these relief, recovery, and reconstruction efforts," he said.

Meanwhile, the preliminary report on the Post Disaster Needs Assessment ("PDNA") being conducted by government agencies in cooperation with international donors will likely be available by early November, in time for the informal meeting between the two public/private sector commissions and multilateral donors to be tapped for rebuilding funds. This informal meeting with potential donors is tentatively scheduled for the week of 9th November. The full PDNA report and the pledging session with the foreign donor community are expected to be held not later than the first week of December.

The PDRF has been in continuous meetings with scientists and environmental experts, and is set to move on a number of immediate projects, while awaiting the reconstruction masterplan now being drafted by the two commissions.

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