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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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30 August 2024

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 154-2024

TO : ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS
SERVICE DIRECTORS AND DIVISION CHIEFS
DISTRICT AND SUB-PORT COLLECTORS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WITH
SUBJECT: "EXPEDITED RELEASE OF FOREIGN RELIEF
GOODS"

This has reference to the attached Memorandum (*Annex "A"*) dated 13 August 2024 from Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin, ordering the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to ensure the timely, efficient, and proper release of Foreign Relief Goods, to wit:

- a. The BOC shall immediately process the release of Relief Consignments within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the Relief Consignment Supplemental Form;
- b. The Department of Finance (DOF) and BOC shall prioritize the processing of the release of relief goods under Section 800 (m) of Republic Act No. 10863 otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA); and
- c. The DOF, BOC, and Department of Social Welfare and Development, in close collaboration with other relevant agencies and offices, shall further streamline, harmonize and digitize the clearance procedure for Foreign Relief Goods. In this regard, the existing policy guidelines may be revised accordingly.

The Executive Secretary is constrained from favorably acting on the Memorandum dated 16 July 2024 from Secretary Ernesto V. Perez, Anti-Red Tape Authority, requesting the issuance of an Administrative Order creating an Inter-Agency Committee that will establish a Green Lane for the clearance procedure of foreign donated relief goods under Sections 120, 121 and 800 (m) of the CMTA ("Foreign Relief Goods").



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In view of the foregoing, you are hereby directed to submit a comprehensive report on the actions taken in compliance with the foregoing directives within thirty (30) days from receipt of the attached Memorandum (*Annex "A"*).

For records purposes, please disseminate this circular throughout your respective offices and submit the necessary confirmation within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof.

For your information and compliance.

BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Commissioner



SEP 04 2024



Office of the President

Malacañang

MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

TO : SECRETARY ENRIQUE A. MANALO
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

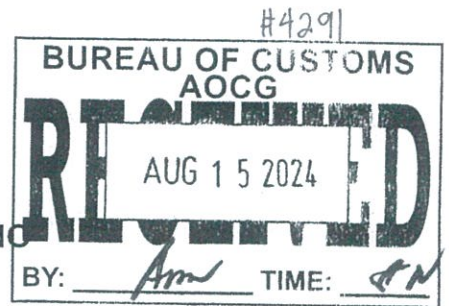
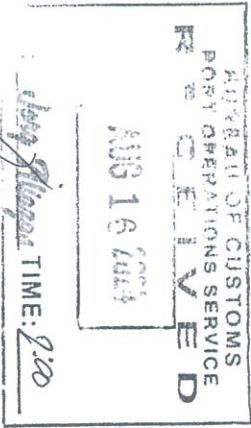
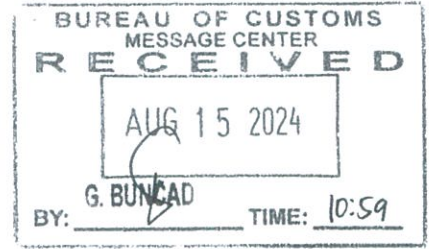
SECRETARY RALPH G. RECTO
Department of Finance (DOF)

SECRETARY REX T. GATCHALIAN
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

DIRECTOR GENERAL ERNESTO V. PEREZ
Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA)

COMMISSIONER BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Bureau of Customs (BOC)

UNDERSECRETARY ARIEL F. NEPOMUCENO
Office of Civil Defense (OCD)



SUBJECT : EXPEDITED RELEASE OF FOREIGN RELIEF GOODS

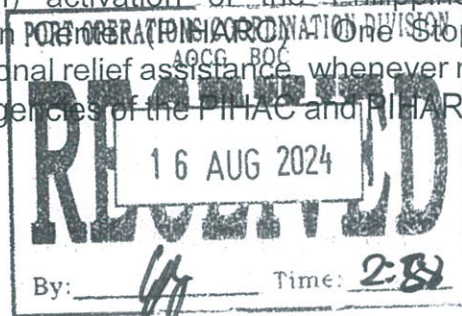
DATE : AUG 13 2024

This refers to the Memorandum dated 16 July 2024 from ARTA Secretary Ernesto V. Perez, requesting the issuance of an Administrative Order (AO) creating an Inter-Agency Committee that will establish a Green Lane for the clearance procedure of foreign donated relief goods under Sections 120, 121 and 800(m) of Republic Act (RA) No. 10863 or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act" ("Foreign Relief Goods").

Upon evaluation, taking into consideration the comments of the DOF and BOC, please be informed that this Office is constrained from favorably acting on the abovementioned request.

Nevertheless, to ensure the timely, efficient, and proper release of Foreign Relief Goods, the following are hereby ordered, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations:

- a. Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Center (PIHAC). The member-agencies of PIHAC shall promptly and actively participate in the performance of PIHAC's duties and functions;
b. DFA. As the lead agency, the DFA shall immediately convene PIHAC in times of calamities to prepare for the: (i) activation of the Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Reception, Processing and Distribution One Stop Shop (OSS) Facilities; and (ii) calling for international relief assistance whenever necessary. The DFA shall ensure that all member-agencies of the PIHAC and PIHARC are apprised of this Memorandum;



- c. **National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC).** The NDRRMC shall promptly activate PIHARC-OSS Facilities upon declaration of a national or local state of calamity by relevant authorities;
- d. **PIHARC-OSS.** The member-agencies of PIHARC-OSS shall: (i) immediately send their official representatives to PIHARC-OSS Facilities within 24 hours upon activation; (ii) expedite the processing of required clearances; and (iii) ensure that they have available representatives to facilitate applicants 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;
- e. **BOC.** The BOC shall immediately process the release of Relief Consignments within 24 hours from receipt of the Relief Consignment Supplemental Form;
- f. **DOF and BOC.** The DOF and BOC shall prioritize the processing of the release of relief goods under Section 800(m) of RA No. 10863; and
- g. **DOF, DSWD, BOC.** As may be necessary, the DOF, DSWD, BOC, in close collaboration with other relevant agencies and offices, shall further streamline, harmonize, and digitize the clearance procedure for Foreign Relief Goods. In this regard, the existing policy guidelines may be revised accordingly.

For this purpose, the abovementioned agencies and offices shall, within 30 days from receipt of this Memorandum, jointly submit a comprehensive report on the actions taken in compliance with the foregoing directives.

For information and strict compliance.

By authority of the President:


LUCAS P. BERSAMIN

