

# PH, Japan formalize R954-M grant for Marawi rehabilitation

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The Philippine government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sealed a grant agreement for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the devastated Marawi City in Mindanao.

During the signing ceremony yesterday, JICA agreed to provide a grant of two-billion yen (around 1954.08 million) to support ongoing efforts for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi City and its surrounding areas.

The agreement was signed by Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III on behalf of the Philippines, and Yoshio Wada, the chief representative in the Philippines of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), on behalf of Japan.

Dominguez said the government identified 902 priority projects, which are estimated to cost a total of 155 billion, with close to half of the funding to be drawn from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Project Fund.

The other sources of financing for these priority projects under the Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (BMCRRP) approved in early April will come from the various government agencies.

He said the government is also considering holding a pledging session similar to what was done after typhoon “Yolanda” (Haiyan) to help fund Marawi’s reconstruction efforts.

The government is also continuing discussions with JICA on drawing funds from the 2-billion yen grant to finance several projects identified under the BMCRRP, Dominguez said.

According to the Department of Finance (DOF), the “Grant Agreement for the Programme for the Support for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi City and Its Surrounding Areas” signed today will cover infrastructure projects, particularly the construction of transcentral roads that need to be rebuilt immediately in the warravaged communities.

This grant (approximately \$18.66 million or about P970 million), is the fourth aid package provided by Japan to the Philippines following earlier grants that include the provision of heavy equipment for Marawi City’s reconstruction program that was formalized on Nov. 12 last year between the two governments.

“I would like to assure the ambassador and the chief representative of JICA that we are very keenly aware that these funds come from the taxpayers of Japan, and that we will honor them by not wasting those funds,” Dominguez said after the signing of the 2-billion yen grant agreement.

Japan has so far provided the Philippines an estimated \$36 million to assist in Marawi’s relief and rehabilitation.

“On behalf of the Philippine Government, I express profound gratitude for the generous support by the Government of Japan to the great task of rebuilding the City of Marawi,” Dominguez said.

The infrastructure projects covered by the grant will be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which serves as vice-chair of the interagency Task Force Bangon Marawi.