

MECHANICS OF THE MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE BENEFIT FUND

Q & A FORMAT

FUND CONCEPT

Q: What is the purpose of the Maguindanao Massacre Benefit Fund?

A: The Maguindanao Massacre Benefit Fund, heretofore referred to as **the Fund**, is a commitment entered between the Federation of Philippine Industries and the Secretary of Justice with the concept of establishing *a fund for the benefit of the families of the victims of the Maguindanao Massacre, to finance the schooling and medical expenses of the bereaved families, as well as establish livelihood and other programs for their benefit.*

Q: Why is there a need to establish a set of Mechanics for the Fund?

A: The mechanics of the Fund shall serve as guidelines *to lay down the principles governing the administration of the fund, as well as establish policies and regulations regarding the entitlement of proposed beneficiaries, the best use of the fund and its orderly distribution.*

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Who are eligible beneficiaries?

A: Relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity of victims of the Maguindanao Massacre of 23 November 2009 shall be eligible to become beneficiaries of the Fund. **But the existence of a legal spouse, and/ or a child/ children, whether legitimate, illegitimate, or adopted, shall automatically exclude 2nd degree relatives from eligibility.**

Q: How do the beneficiaries prove eligibility?

A: Our basis for determining eligibility shall be *the official list of victims on file with the National Bureau of Investigation*. Applicants must present proof of kinship through any of the following documents: a.) **birth certificate**, b.) **marriage certificate** or c.) **adoption decree**, DULY CERTIFIED by the National Statistics Office.

PROGRAMS

Q: Which Benefit Programs are covered by the Fund?

A: The Programs covered by the Fund include a.) **Cash Grants**, b.) **Educational Assistance**, c.) **Medical Assistance** and d.) **Livelihood Assistance**. **Additional financial assistance programs and expenses may be proposed by the beneficiaries for inclusion in the coverage of the Fund.** Proposals for inclusion shall be evaluated by the DOJ and the decision for **approval or denial of the proposal for inclusion shall rest on the Federation alone.**

However, **legal fees** for the continued prosecution of any case filed in relation to the Maguindanao Massacre, **emoluments, salaries, fees and administrative expenses** incurred by the DOJ in relation to the processing of claims and validation of beneficiaries, and other **expenses not expressly included in these guidelines or subsequent issuances of the Federation, shall not be covered and paid out by the fund.**

Q: Can the respective beneficiaries claim a one-time Lump Sum Amount for their Cash Grant?

A: No. One-time Lump sum cash grants from the total Fund cannot be granted. It defeats the purpose of a *multi-benefit program scheme* adopted by the benefactors. Eligible family-beneficiaries shall be entitled to an **initial cash grant in the amount of P50,000.00**. Each family-beneficiary shall be entitled **to only one cash grant per release**. Additional and periodical cash grants shall be released from time to time.

Q: Does the Educational Assistance cover the scholarships of beneficiaries who are not yet in college?

A: Yes. The educational assistance covers full scholarships **up to the college level**.

Q: Who can avail of the Educational Assistance?

A: Children of victims, legitimate, illegitimate, and legally adopted, may avail of the scholarship.

Q: What is the order of priority of eligible beneficiaries for the Educational Assistance?

A: As provided in the *Eligibility Clause*, subject to the proper evidencing of proof-of-

kinship. *However, dependent siblings of victims without children, who were registered by the deceased with the Social Security System (SSS) or the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), shall likewise be eligible for the educational assistance program.*

Eligible children of other victims shall take priority over eligible siblings of childless victims in the approval, distribution, and release of (scholarship) funds.

Q: Does existing medical insurance programs of beneficiaries, such as those covered by SSS, GSIS and others, preclude beneficiaries from the Medical Assistance Program provided herein?

A: No. Eligible beneficiaries can still avail of the medical assistance covering *medical expenses, professional fees and cost of medicines not covered by the SSS, GSIS, and any other existing medical insurance program in favor of said beneficiary.*

Q: What procedure is required of beneficiaries to receive the amount needed to cover their medical expenses?

A: Eligible beneficiaries must provide receipts indicating proof of payment and [must] be immediately submitted to the DOJ. Medicine shall be purchased directly by the Fund administrator, upon request made through the DOJ.

Presentation of additional receipts for reimbursement shall not be entertained or honored.

Q: How will Livelihood Assistance be provided?

A: Individual **beneficiaries are requested to submit their proposed livelihood project(s) for evaluation and approval.** These *shall be evaluated on a case to case basis by a panel to be formed by the administrator of the Fund. The panel shall consist of a representative from the DOJ, and two representatives from the Federation (the Panel). All proposals shall be coursed through the DOJ.*

Q: What are excluded from the financial assistance programs of the Fund?

A: **Legal fees for the continued prosecution of any case filed in relation to the Maguindanao Massacre, emoluments, salaries, fees and administrative expenses incurred by the DOJ in relation to the processing of claims and validation of beneficiaries, and other**

expenses not expressly included in these guidelines or subsequent issuances of the Federation, shall not be covered and paid out by the fund.

However, additional financial assistance programs and expenses may be proposed by the beneficiaries for inclusion in the coverage of the Fund. The decision for approval or denial of the proposal for inclusion shall rest on the Federation alone.

APPLICATIONS and CLAIMS

Q: Which body shall exercise authority to handle the application and claims of beneficiaries?

A: A **DOJ Committee** shall be constituted to handle the application and claims of beneficiaries. The initial Committee shall be composed of Undersecretary Ian Norman E. Dato, Assistant Secretary Ella Blanca B. Lopez, and Chief State Prosecutor Claro A. Arellano.

Q: How will eligible beneficiaries apply for the Maguindanao Fund Benefit Program?

A: Claimants must proceed to the DOJ and fill up an *eligibility validation form*, attaching any of the following proof of kinship: a.) **Birth certificate**, b.) **Marriage certificate**, and/or c.) **adoption decree** DULY CERTIFIED by the NSO.

Q: How will the DOJ Committee keep track of the eligible beneficiaries' application?

A: The following **General Procedure** shall provide guidance in managing and in keeping track of the eligible beneficiaries' applications:

Eligible beneficiaries shall be issued a **beneficiary member number and identification card**, which must be presented at all times when making claims. Claims without reference to a member number shall not be processed.

Claims for the benefit of non-members using the beneficiary number/ ID of an eligible and verified beneficiary may lead to the cancellation and recall of the beneficiary's eligibility.

The **DOJ shall process all applications for assistance**; however, the **discretion to approve or disapprove claims, and actual release of the funds shall be done by the Federation alone.**

Q: How will eligible beneficiaries claim Educational Assistance?

A: Applications for inclusion in the Educational Assistance Program must be **coursed through the DOJ**. Likewise, the beneficiaries must present ALL following requirements: a.) **beneficiary identification card**, b.) **report card/ grades for the preceding school year** or semester, and c.) **enrolment assessment** from the school or university.

Q: Will applications for Educational Assistance be immediately acted upon?

A: Approval and release of funding for Educational Assistance *may vary from year to year and from case to case*. This *shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Federation*. Factors taken into consideration are **availability of the fund and the number of applications received in a given school year**.

Q: How will the beneficiaries receive their Educational Assistance and in what mode?

A: The Federation, upon evaluation and approval, *shall issue checks directly to the beneficiaries, provided that receipts indicating proof of payment be immediately submitted to the DOJ*.

No reimbursements shall be processed.

Q: How will eligible beneficiaries claim Medical Assistance?

A: Applications for inclusion in the Medical Assistance Program also must be **coursed through the DOJ**. Eligible beneficiaries must present ALL following requirements: a.) **beneficiary identification card**, b.) **medical bill/ assessment**, and c.) **doctor's prescription**.

However, the Federation reserves the right to *request the beneficiaries to be examined by a doctor of their own choice prior to the release of the fund. The fees for the Federation recommended doctor shall be paid for by the Federation*.

Q: How will the beneficiaries receive their Medical Assistance and in what mode?

A: The Federation, upon evaluation and approval, *shall issue checks directly to the beneficiaries, provided that receipts indicating proof of payment be immediately submitted to the DOJ*.

Q: How will the medicines of eligible beneficiaries be provided?

A: *The medicine required shall be provided by the Federation directly and may not be coursed through a third party pharmacy/ provider.*

Q: How will eligible beneficiaries claim Livelihood Assistance?

A: Applications for inclusion in the Livelihood Assistance Program also must be **coursed through the DOJ**. Eligible beneficiaries must present ALL following requirements: a.) **beneficiary identification card**, and b.) **comprehensive proposal for livelihood assistance**.

The **Comprehensive Proposal for Livelihood Assistance** shall cover and include the following: a.) **Requested amount of funding**, b.) **Feasibility and sustainability strategy**, and c.) **All other relevant information** necessary for a favorable evaluation of beneficiary's application.

Q: How will eligible beneficiaries know if their Comprehensive Proposal for Livelihood Assistance is favorably evaluated?

A: Approval of submitted proposals shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Federation. In this regard, *the Federation may request the proponent-beneficiaries for an interview or a presentation of their proposal, provide additional justifications for their proposal, and submit additional supporting documents.*

The Federation shall evaluate the processed applications and shall approve, disapprove or modify proposals. *The mechanics of approved proposals shall be issued on a case to case basis.*

No reimbursements shall be processed.