



**Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KAMP)**  
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**Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KAMP) Statement  
National Alliance of Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines**

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**Agenda Item 6: Study on the Promotion and Protection of the rights of IP  
in Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention and Preparedness  
Initiatives**

More than 8 months ago, the Typhoon Haiyan ravaged extensive portions of Central Philippines. Almost all of the provinces where the typhoon passed through were immediately declared under state of calamity.

Described as the strongest typhoon in world history, Haiyan devastated whole towns in a matter of hours. Based on government's data, the total deaths already reached 6,300 persons as of May 2014, while more than 1000 remain missing.

Around 15,000 families of indigenous peoples were affected from various in the Islands of Panay, Mindoro and Palawan. The poor socio-economic conditions of the indigenous peoples made these communities most vulnerable, and the impact of a typhoon like Haiyan puts them in the most difficult situation. Aside from their houses, the indigenous peoples' crops and farms were also devastated. Farmers were not able to harvest their crop and some of the surviving crops need at least 3 years to be able to regain productivity. Fishermen were unable to work due damaged boats and fishing gears. Food, clean drinking water and income have also been inadequate.

Indigenous peoples living in remote areas are least in the priority and are almost never reached by immediate support for relief and rehabilitation especially of the government.

There has also been subsequent displacement due to the 'No build zone' policy that affects families of fisher folks living in coastal communities, but the government does not have an alternative plan for the displaced communities that would ensure their long-term alternative livelihood, safe relocation areas, free housing and access to social services. We have witnessed the 'No build zone policy' being used to

displace communities while giving way to big businesses, and converting these coastal areas into economic zones for tourism development.

Beyond the rescue and relief operations, the overwhelming task of rebuilding is in the communities themselves. Indigenous peoples affected are not mere "victims" but are survivors with the latent capacities that need to be unleashed and supported.

Local indigenous peoples' organizations and communities, in partnership with citizens-based disaster response centers collectively mobilized at the grounds to rebuild their livelihood and communities. The indigenous communities also participated in dialogues and even several protest actions to present their demands to the local and national government as well as to some government agencies.

Unfortunately, in June 19, one of the citizens-based relief center – the Panay Center for Disaster Response or PCDR, was ransacked by 3 masked men. They took away memory sticks, external hard drives, mobile phones, camera, logbooks, ledgers, printed documents and photos on the relief and rehabilitation operations, and an amount of less than 400 US dollars. Indigenous peoples rights organizations believe that this was a military operation and was also an attack to all the victims of the typhoon. The PCDR's relief and rehabilitation projects reach far-flung areas devastated by the super typhoon where practically no government assistance is felt to give immediate and effective response to the needs of typhoon victims. Many of these areas are also suspected by the government as "rebel infested" areas.

Natural disasters such as super typhoon Yolanda or Haiyan may be inevitable, but people's lives can be spared and massive damage may be prevented or minimized if the government takes adequate preparedness and prompt action in the face of natural calamities.

The Aquino government is also being held criminally accountable by the survivors for its negligence and gross incompetence in ensuring the safety and welfare of the typhoon victims and survivors. Had it not been for the help of the international community and national non-government organizations, the people would have suffered more due to the ineptness of the government to the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts and to respond to the immediate needs of the people. The survivors continue to demand justice for this tragedy.

Based on our communities' experiences, we forward the following recommendations for further studies:

1. Provide financial subsidy or monetary relief to the affected families in farming and fishing communities especially to those whose subsistence and livelihoods primarily depend on agriculture.
2. Sustain the distribution of relief assistance of food and water to the victims both in the urban and rural communities until such time that their economic lives are relatively stable and recovered.
3. Impose price controls on basic commodities and moratorium on oil, power and water rate hikes in affected areas.

4. Facilitate a speedy restoration and access to vital public utilities such as water, power, transportation and communication installations in severely affected areas. Provide alternatives such as solar panels and the like as deemed necessary.
5. Hold public consultations in crafting the rehabilitation and reconstruction plan and ensure that the victims, not the big businesses and landlords, are at the core of this plan.
6. Allocate additional funds to Local Government Units in affected areas that would serve as special calamity funds to facilitate the prompt delivery of basic social services.
7. Ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of such efforts.
8. Immediately pull out local and foreign military forces and suspend all counter-insurgency programs in typhoon-struck areas.
9. Revoke and prevent policies that enforce land grabbing, effective demolition and eviction of the victims from their homes and livelihood, such as the "No-Build Zone Policy". Provide them with free and adequate housing, sufficient supply of clean water and provision for electricity.
10. Review all government policies that are destructive to people's lives and the environment such as mining policies and related anti-people policies. Revisit the laws on disaster risk preparedness and response.
11. Implement genuine agrarian reform under the support of a national industrialization program as a key solution to the mass poverty and its consequent people's vulnerability to disasters and climate change impacts.