



## *Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 'Pamaskong Handog' for poor families continues until January 7*

MANILA, Jan. 5 (PGON) -President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's gift-giving for poor families under the "Pamaskong Handog" project will continue until Monday, Jan. 7, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Launched in Masbate last Dec. 13 by the President herself, the project aims to provide Christmas gift packs to at least 835,600 poor families from 30 poorest provinces in the country, including the National Capital Region (NCR).

It is implemented by the DSWD, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), Department of Agriculture (DA), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral said that "Pamaskong Handog" is part of the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program of the Arroyo administration which aims to reduce hunger among poor families through food distribution and supplemental feeding for children.

A budget worth P150 million was released by the government for this project. The funds were drawn from the combined resources of PAGCOR which poured in P100 million and the DSWD which provided P50 million.

Beneficiaries of the project come from provinces identified as food-poor provinces by the National Nutrition Council (NNC). Ten provinces, including the NCR, were classified as first priority, while 20 others were classified as second priority.

Families residing in first priority provinces received P250 worth of gift packs containing two kilos of rice, one kilo of sugar, two cans of corned beef, coffee, juice, spaghetti noodles and sauce, and instant noodles.

Families from the second priority provinces, on the other hand, received P100 worth of gifts packs containing two kilos of rice, two cans of corned beef, and two packs of instant noodles.

Secretary Cabral said that different government agencies involved in pro-poor programs were present during the gift-giving wherein the heads of agencies provided on-site services such as microfinance, Botika ng Barangay, medical mission, training programs, cooking demonstrations, and nutrition education. #

*Office of the President - released 1/5/2008*