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An emergency employment, livelihood recovery and reconstruction project for Tropical Storm Sendong survivors in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan has been launched on Monday, May 21 in Barangay Balulang, this city. The project, dubbed the Community-Based Emergency Employment and Reconstruction Project (CBEERP), was a collaborative undertaking of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), International Labor Organization (ILO), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the local government units as part of their continuing efforts to provide relief to Sendong survivors. It consists of three phases, namely, emergency employment, livelihood recovery and production of guides and manuals on emergency employment approach, said Nori T. Palarca, chief technical adviser of the ILO-Employment Intensive Investment Program. He said the emergency employment component involves a 15-day clean-up activity that includes de-clogging and dredging of the drainage canals in Sendong affected-barangays.

The qualified beneficiary will be paid a daily wage of P215 or 75 percent of the approved minimum wage for the city. The livelihood recovery component, Palarca said, aims to re-establish the lost livelihood of the victims. It will be implemented through infrastructure development that will need alternative livelihood like local reource-based hollow blocks production. He also said that part of the interventions of ILO is to provide skills training to those workers that will engaged in the recovery and reconstruction work such as skills on carpentry, masonry and welding, among others. On the other hand, the manual to be developed will serve as guide to the other areas in cases calamities or similar situations, he added.

Meanwhile, Crispin D. Dannug, Jr., assistant regional director of DOLE-10, disclosed that a total of 847 beneficiaries were already identified through the interviews administered by DOLE at the different relocation sites and from the database of the respective barangays. The DOLE-10 earlier announced that 722 beneficiaries will be involved in the 15-day clean-up program and 125 workers will work in the respective relocation sites. Accordingly, the DOLE-10 will provide the hand tools and protective gears like wheel barrow, shovel, rake, digging bar, picks, dust pan, broom and rubbers boots while the ILO will provide the work clothing and cover the costs of health insurance for the work crew. The pay loaders and dump trucks for hauling and dumping of the debris will be provided by the City Planning and Development Offices. Dannug further disclosed that the launch will also be done in Iligan City next week.(APB-PIA10)

VP Binay turns over housing units to ‘ Sendong’ victims in CdO \* Written by Tribune   
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Vice President Jejomar Binay on Friday led the turn-over of completed housing units in Cagayan de Oro City (CdO) to families displaced by the floods caused by tropical storm “ Sendong.” Binay, Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), turned over 200 completed housing units located at the National Housing Authority (NHA)-CDO Bayanihan Village Phase I in Barangay Camaman-an. The Vice President said that the property where the houses are situated was acquired by NHA to be developed as a resettlement site for families in CdO affected by Sendong.

The site covers some 4. 7 hectares and is some 4. 7 kilometers away from point of origin of the beneficiaries. The housing units cost P110, 000 each, with DSWD shouldering P70, 000 and NHA covering the remaining P40, 000. Binay urged the beneficiaries to take good care of the houses that were given to them. The Local Government Unit of CdO will provide livelihood programs to the informal settler families relocated in the area under its Livelihood Assistance Program. The Vice President was among the first national government officials to visit CdO in the aftermath of Sendong to give aid and personally assess the damage wrought by the typhoon.