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LESSONS FROM THE Metro Manila

Shake Drill

DILG and NAPOLCOM personnel cover their heads as they move out of building during the simultaneous earthquake drill.

Last June 22, 2016, at nine o'clock sharp, the alarm sound blasted off for the simultaneous second Metro Manila shake drill. Upon hearing the alarm, DILG and NAPOLCOM personnel within the building ducked under their tables for cover and held on to their tables for one minute. When the alarm went off, the floor marshalls led the personnel to the emergency exit where members of the security team were waiting to guide the people in descending the stairs with their flashlights.

They all went out of the building through the emergency exit at the ground floor.

The searchers checked the entire premises assigned to them and ensured that nobody was left behind. When all was clear, they put an X mark sign at the door and moved out of the building as well.

Just outside the DILG-NAPOLCOM center, a police cord was set-up around the building to prevent passersby and moving vehicles along the busy EDSA Avenue. Assigned security guards directed the people coming out of the building towards the designated evacuation area near the Philippine Women's University.

At the evacuation area, DILG and NAPOLCOM staff joined the personnel from Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and residents of Times Street. Designated Attendance Officers per floor reported the total headcount of personnel evacuated to the Communication and Documentation Team at the Command Center. Medical team kept watch nearby with first aid kits in hand.

Throughout the shake drill, the DILG-NAPOLCOM

emergency response team communicated over hand-held radios for reporting and coordination. Meanwhile, personnel from the Bureau of Fire (BFP) observed the entire process.

By 9:35 AM, the entire shake drill was completed. The General Marshall Atty. Jenna Javarez declared that DILG personnel can go back the building.

At the assessment and evaluation meeting after the shake drill, several observations and suggestions surfaced to fortify the DILG and NAPOLCOM's readiness in times of disaster. Among others, it was suggested that each personnel shall have a whistle and flashlight for emergency. Personnel with medical needs shall be assigned with a buddy to assist them in case of actual emergencies. Emergency exit doors shall be closed at all times to prevent the smoke from going up to the offices in case of fire. If such case happens, people moving down the building through the stairs will have a hard time when meeting with upward smoke at the stairs. Also, the attendance officers should bring the logbook along with them and have another attendance sheet signed by warm bodies at the designated evacuation center. Personnel listed in the logsheet and not listed at the attendance sheets shall be considered as casualty in real emergencies and shall need to be searched.

"The DILG is the Co-Chairman for Disaster, so it is imperative that personnel from DILG and NAPOLCOM are ready for earthquake, fire, and other disaster," said lead observer Senior Inspector Cesar Patrocinio of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). **Eve Castino-Quilas, PACS-ICRD**

DILG-CO QUALITY POLICY

We, the DILG Central Office, commit to formulate sound policies and provide effective technical and administrative services to promote excellence in local governance, strengthen local government capacities, and enhance the service delivery of our Regional and Field Offices.