



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Francisco Gold Condominium II EDSA cor. Mapagmahal St.,
Diliman, Quezon City



September 4, 2003

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 2003-189

TO: ALL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS,
SANGGUNIANG MEMBERS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS
AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: ENHANCING LOCAL PREPAREDNESS FOR ANY CALAMITIES

In view of the recent havoc brought about by the previous calamities, Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued an instruction to vigorously pursue the goal of "zero casualty" in times of calamities.

The Philippines, being situated in a tectonically active region and in the so-called "typhoon belt" is prone to earthquakes and exposed to frequent tropical depressions, monsoon rains and typhoons. Based on PHIVOLCS data, most parts of the archipelago experience an average of 5-10 earthquakes daily, while NDCC data reveal that the country experiences about 20 typhoons annually. In addition, the country also experiences other natural and man-made disasters. National government cannot respond alone to consequences of these calamities. Local governments being in the forefront, play a vital role in preparing for and responding to these calamities.

Relative to this, all local government units are advised to engage in the following precautionary measures for calamities:

1. Conduct trainings, orientation, information campaign and drills in high risk & vulnerable areas, government offices and school premises.
2. Review the Local Disaster Preparedness and Management Plans, update the mechanisms, procedures and structures based on current data and information.
3. Ensure that all disaster preparedness and response mechanisms and structures are properly in place and functional with the involvement of the NGOs, NGAs, Private Sector, academe, students, volunteer groups and the community within the area.
4. Identify high risk areas through community-based hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment.
5. Reactivate and alert the Local Disaster Coordinating Councils (LDCC's) at the provincial, city, municipal and barangay levels and keep them abreast of the disaster advisories.

6. Establish an operations center for the LDCC and support groups, that would house basic equipment/facilities for search and rescue,
7. Identify evacuation centers, rehabilitation and resettlement areas,
8. Translate calamity advisories to sound and workable local policies and ensure precautionary measures to prevent adverse effects of any disaster,
9. Establish a system of synchronized coordination and networking between and among stakeholders, and
10. Ensure that projects and activities are included in the annual investment program

In the conduct of the above related activities, LGUs may coordinate with concerned agencies particularly the Office of Civil Defense Regional Offices, PHIVOLCS, DepED, DOH, DSWD, PNRC, BFP, CWC, and other agencies & institutions. For information on weather and/or earthquake forecasts/updates, you may visit the PAGASA and PHIVOLCS websites at www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph and www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph

All DILG Regional Offices are directed to provide the needed assistance when necessary.

For the guidance and compliance of all concerned

Jose D. Liza, Jr.
 JOSE D. LIZA, JR.
 Secretary

ATTESTED BY

Alan Romillo Yap
 ATTY. ALAN ROMILLO YAP
 Head Executive Assistant

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BLGD *[Signature]* 9/8/07