



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
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EDPS-DIG  
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**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

No: 2006-20

**TO : PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, SANGGUNIANG PANLUNSOD/BAYAN, SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL HAZARDS**

The country is again faced with the threats of nature like the landslides in Southern Leyte, Compostela Valley, and Davao Oriental, and the possible eruption of Mayon Volcano, which could be aggravated by the presence of La Niña Phenomenon. Ten (10) provinces were identified by forecasting and warning agencies (PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, DENR-MGB) as the most landslide prone areas in the country: Southern Leyte, Benguet, Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Kalinga Apayao, Abra, Marinduque, Cebu, Calanduanes and Ifugao. Though priority must be focused on said areas, LGUs, local officials and others concerned must prepare for natural events that may occur in the future.

In view of this, all Local Chief Executives are requested and encouraged to:

- (1) reactivate their Local Disaster Coordinating Councils at the provincial, city/municipal and barangay levels;
- (2) immediate creation and activation of the Public Safety and Emergency Office (PSEMO);
- (3) establish support mechanisms composed of NGOs, volunteer groups/emergency responders, and community organizations;
- (4) conduct public awareness activities on the hazards in the locality utilizing existing hazard maps in the area and other available info materials such as: posters, "how-tos" manuals, developed by warning agencies (PHIVOLCS, PAGASA, DENR-MGB, DepEd)etc;
- (5) cooperate with Preparedness Action Teams ( OCD, PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, DENR-MGB) in the conduct of orientation/training on Disaster Preparedness;
- (6) formulate preparedness plans to include routes, protocols and Standard Operating Procedures for evacuation;
- (7) ensure functionality of LDCC Committees and presence of early warning system available in the area;
- (8) identify areas for evacuation centers and personnel to manage said evacuation sites;
- (9) identify possible resettlement areas for affected people;
- (10) identify water and food sources and establish a mechanism for distribution;
- (11) establish databanks of high risks areas, population at risks, service providers (e.g social workers, medical personnel, search and rescue equipment, transport services, communication facilities, alternate road networks, mortuaries);

(12) establish identification system for the populace; and


(13) develop SOPs on damage and needs assessment

Respective sanngunians of LGUs concerned are enjoined to:

- (1) enact resolutions adopting the preparedness plans to empower local police to evacuate people along critical areas to ensure zero casualties and immediate declaration of state of calamity of affected areas when necessary; and
- (2) ensure allocation of funds and other resources needed to implement above mentioned activities.

All regional Directors are directed to cause the widest dissemination of this issuance, provide assistance to local governments concerned in the formulation of the preparedness plans, as necessary.

For compliance and guidance of all concerned.

  
WENCELITO T. ANDANAR  
Acting Secretary, DILG *WCA*

