



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City

November 5, 2009

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2009-171

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS AND DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS

SUBJECT : SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN

Organized response finds relevance and urgency in light of the increasingly destructive typhoons that the country is confronted with.

In this connection, all concerned local authorities are enjoined to formulate their Search and Rescue Plans, to be incorporated in the LDCC Plans, with particular emphasis on floods and landslides.

The SAR Plan, as completed, should contain the following elements:

I. Purpose of the Plan

Search and rescue operation is aimed at zero casualty, or to minimize unnecessary loss of lives during calamities.

II. Area Coverage

Specify barangays or sitios covered by the Plan.

III. Vulnerable Areas, and Population at Risks

Identify: (a) population at risks in vulnerable area(s) such as those living in low-lying lands, along riverbanks, shorelines, esteros, canals and in and under slope areas which are prone to floods or landslides; (b) people with special needs such as elderly, children, infants, pregnant women and persons with disabilities, and their locations; and (c) poorly constructed houses and facilities.

IV. Early Warning System

Indicate city, municipal or barangay-wide alarm systems to be installed, whether stationary or portable warning devices, that are capable of producing loud wailing sound.

Also indicate who are to manage or operate such established early warning systems.

In the absence of warning devices, include in the Annual Investment Plan as priority for funding.

V. Permanent Evacuation Center(s)

Identify permanent evacuation center(s) other than public school buildings, and the basic essentials that should be there. Also include information on center management.

In the absence of a permanent evacuation center other than public school buildings, include in the AIP as priority for funding.

VI. Pre-Emptive Evacuation

Specify local government actions to be done for the enforcement of pre-emptive evacuation, and indicate the location and capacity of evacuation center(s).

VII. Forced Residual Evacuation

Indicate the actions of the local government for the enforcement of residual evacuation, as may be necessary.

VIII. Disaster Command and Auxiliary Command Centers

Indicate location and contact numbers of disaster command and auxiliary command centers, and names and telephone numbers of the LDCC members and response teams, including the local PNP and BFP.

IX. Rescue Operations Staging Area(s) and Route(s)

Identify rescue staging areas and critical routes, traffic rerouting plan, names and contact information of designated traffic enforcers in the assigned routes and the manner of communicating these information area-wide.

X. Deployment of Rescue Equipment

Indicate SAR manpower and essential equipment (e.g., boats, vehicles, radio communications, special tools, generators, etc.), manner of deployment of rescue teams, and reporting mechanism to the command center(s).

XI. Relief Goods Distribution

Indicate available goods, clothing and other resources for relief, the system for distribution of relief goods in the evacuation centers, and the number of, and names and contact information of social welfare officer(s), and security officer(s) assigned to such evacuation center(s).

XII. Medical and Counseling Services

Indicate names and contact information of local health officers, and list of prospective medical practitioners living in the area, e.g., doctors, nurses, and trained paramedics who may be tapped for medical and counseling services.

Also indicate medicines and medical equipment that have to be sourced out.

XIII. Termination of Rescue and Relief Operations

Indicate situation(s) when rescue and relief efforts are to be shifted towards clearing, cleaning and rehabilitation, e.g., organization of "Clean-up Brigades".

XIV. Matrix of Action, Resources and Timelines

Indicate key activities, timelines, resource requirements, and centers of responsibility.

XV. Reinforcing Activities

Indicate the conduct of drills and simulated exercises.

XVI. Communicating to the Public

Indicate communication medium, network, coordinating mechanisms and policies.

It is understood that the formulation of the Plan is a collaborative undertaking among the LDCC Members, Response Teams, the Heads of the local PNP and BFP Offices or Stations and other community stakeholders, and has to be periodically updated. It is further understood that once the Plan is completed, it has to be periodically communicated area-wide for the information of the inhabitants. Finally, the SAR Plan has to be finalized before but not later than December 31, 2009, for implementation beginning January 1, 2010.

All DILG Regional Directors are directed to cause the dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to local authorities within their regional assignments, and to provide administrative and technical guidance, as appropriate and as may be necessary.


RONALDO V. PUNO
Secretary

