



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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October 7, 2015

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2015-118

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS, THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM), THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP) CHIEF AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : EL NIÑO ADVISORY

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA), moderate El Niño conditions will continue to persist across the equatorial Pacific Ocean and may intensify towards the last quarter of 2015 and may last until early 2016.

Analysis of rainfall distribution showed that near to above normal rainfall were observed over the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Central and Southern Luzon including Metro Manila, Romblon, Albay, Palawan, Negros Island Region, southern section of Cebu, and Western and Central Mindanao. The rest of the country experienced below to way below normal rainfall conditions especially the eastern section of the country, which is a clear manifestation of the impacts of El Niño.

Further, the provinces of Aurora, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Laguna, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro and Quirino were affected by dry spell or three (3) consecutive months below normal rainfall conditions or two (2) consecutive months of way below normal rainfall conditions. The provinces of Bohol, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Quezon and Siquijor were affected by drought for three (3) consecutive months of way below normal or five (5) consecutive months of below normal rainfall conditions.

Below normal rainfall is predicted over Palawan, Camarines Norte, Guimaras, Negros Island Region, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, SOCCSKSARGEN and ARMM, except Cotabato and Lanao Del Sur, respectively. Above normal rainfall is likely to be received in the Samar Provinces and Misamis Oriental.

The provinces of Bohol, Cagayan, Camarines Norte and Isabela will likely experience drought or dry spell; while conditions in Aurora, Camiguin, Catanduanes, Laguna, Marinduque, Misamis Oriental, Occidental Mindoro, Quezon, Quirino and Siquijor are likely to improve.

With the foregoing, all concerned are advised to **take precautionary measures in their respective areas of responsibility** through the following:

- Local government units are encouraged to:
 1. **Urgently enact ordinances** curbing illegal connections and encouraging the prudent use of water, which include using broom instead of water hose in cleaning sidewalks and driveways, fixing leaky faucets, using pail or bucket instead of hose in cleaning cars, using recycled or leftover water for houseplants, and watering gardens during the coolest part of the day;
 2. Allow water concessionaires and water utilities to conduct emergency repair of leaks prior to securing the necessary excavation permit, provided that said permit shall be secured within a reasonable period from the commencement of the repair works;
 3. Lift the application of number-coding schemes, as applicable, with respect to the water tankers that will be used by water concessionaires and water utilities to immediately address the water supply needs of their affected customers; and
 4. Report any manifestations of El Niño to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Council, through the Local DRRM Council.

- The Bureau of Fire Protection is directed to:
 1. Refrain from unnecessarily drawing water from fire hydrants, and to limit the same only for purposes of putting out fires; and
 2. Allow water concessionaires and water utilities free use of fire trucks for tankering operations in view of the significant number of households that will be affected and the limited availability of water tankers

A copy of the Dry Spell and Drought Outlook from September 2015 to February 2016 is available for downloading at the official website of PAG-ASA, <http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/>.

All DILG Regional Directors, the BFP Chief and the Office of the ARMM Regional Governor are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular, within their respective jurisdictions.

For strict compliance.


MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO
 Secretary