



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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**LISTO SA TAG-ULAN AT COVID-19:
PREPAREDNESS MEASURES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
FOR THE RAINY SEASON CY 2020**

Memorandum Circular No. 2020-125
25 SEP 2020

1. Background

- 1.1. The Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) has released its Climate Outlook for the Philippines for June-November 2020. Weather Systems that may affect the country are tropical cyclones, easterlies, low pressure areas, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), ridge of high pressure areas and thunderstorms. Seventeen tropical cyclones will likely enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility from June to November. Generally, near to above average temperature is predicted in most areas of the country, except during the month of July¹.
- 1.2. Further, DOST-PAGASA issued the La Niña Alert last 9 September 2020, on which climate monitoring and analyses suggest that La Niña may develop in the coming months. La Niña is characterized by unusually cool ocean surface temperatures in the Central and Eastern Equatorial Pacific (CEEP). Since August 2020, further cooling of sea surface temperature (SSTs) have been observed across the CEEP, while atmospheric indicators are now at La Niña thresholds. Most climate models suggest that the chance of La Niña forming in 2020 is >70%².
- 1.3. With this development, the country may experience higher chances of strong convective activity and tropical cyclone occurrence which may bring above normal rainfall, especially

¹ <http://pubfiles.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climps/climateforum/climateoutlook.pdf>

² http://pubfiles.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/pagasaweb/files/climate/elninolanina/LA_NINA_ALERT.pdf

in the eastern sections of the country in the coming several months. Impacts also include slightly warmer air temperatures in varying degrees from place to place and from time to time due to enhanced easterlies. Potential adverse impacts also include floods and landslides over vulnerable areas, with varying magnitude³

- 1.4. Amidst these weather forecasts is the on-going prevention, mitigation and response to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Health released its Administrative Order No. 2020-0015 or the Guidelines on the Risk-Based Public Health Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation. The Guidelines aim to increase physical and mental resilience, reduce contact and transmission, and reduce the duration of infection of the population, as it enjoins a whole-of-society response.
- 1.5. The occurrence of scattered thunderstorms, Tropical Depression "BUTCHOY" and the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) have brought significant amounts of rain over the western sections of Luzon and Visayas. These satisfied the criteria of the start of the rainy season in the areas affected by Habagat which will continue to experience scattered to widespread rains and thunderstorms in the coming days. However, such rain events may be followed by dry periods (monsoon break) that could last for several days to two weeks⁴.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. To enjoin all concerned to undertake necessary preparedness measures for the rainy season while addressing and implementing infection prevention and control measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.

³ *ibid.* p.1

⁴ <http://bagong.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/press-release/71>

3. Scope/Coverage

- 3.1. All Provincial Governors, City and Municipal Mayors, Punong Barangays, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs), Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officers (LDRRMOs), DILG Regional Directors, the Minister of the Interior and Local Government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM-MILG), and all others concerned.

4. Policy Content and Guidelines

- 4.1. All concerned are hereby enjoined to perform the following preparedness actions against the impact of the rainy season, with the complementary objectives of protecting the public from the transmission and widespread infection of the SARS-COV-2 virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic, and minimize the disruption to our economy. These are all underpinned in the country's vision to have safer, adaptive, and disaster resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development.

4.1.1. For Local Chief Executives:

- 4.1.1.1. Convene their LDRRMCs and conduct pre-disaster risk assessment (PDRA) for floods, flashfloods, rain-induced landslides, debris flow, storm surge and strong winds to ascertain the appropriate response actions. The scaled geo-hazard maps of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) will guide decisions, especially for areas with high to very high susceptibility to these hazards.

The PDRA should also take into account new evacuation protocols, taking into consideration minimum public health standards to prevent and

control infection, such as proper hand hygiene, which requires the steady supply and flow of clean water, sufficient quantities of hand soap, and proper and adequate drainage; the proper wearing of face masks, including the proper washing and drying of reusable face masks; the proper disposal of disposable face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE), and related infectious wastes (such as tissue paper, cotton balls, disposable syringe and needles, etc.); and ensuring that every person in the evacuation center will be able to maintain at least one (1) meter distance from other persons at all times. The Camp Coordination and Management (CCM) Teams should be directed to conduct simulation exercises to determine gaps and recommend solutions. Preemptive evacuation shall remain as one of the best practices during typhoons, and should be given more emphasis, particularly with the prevailing pandemic.

- 4.1.1.2. **Update the Local Contingency Plans** for Hydro-Meteorological Hazards (copy furnished their respective DILG Field Office), and engage the participation of Local Health Officers (LHO) and, as much as possible, the Local Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (LESU), in the review, inclusion and implementation of descriptive epidemiology and pattern analyses in the plans.
- 4.1.1.3. **Closely coordinate with relevant agencies**, such as DOST-PAGASA, for timely weather updates; with DENR-MGB, for adequate information on the threat of flooding and rain-induced landslides; and with the DOH, on the alert levels for COVID-19, within their respective areas of responsibility.

- 4.1.1.4. **Assess the structural integrity and capacity of vital facilities**, especially those being used as evacuation centers and multi-purpose buildings, LIGTAS COVID centers, health centers and hospitals for COVID-19 cases; public buildings, including public markets, land transportation terminals and ports; lifelines, such as power, water and communication; and immediately undertake proper actions to ensure that these are all functional and safe to use, in relation to emergencies during the rainy season.
- 4.1.1.5. **Establish early preparedness actions** guided by the Operation LISTO Disaster Preparedness Manual for City and Municipal LGUs, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2015-76 dated 21 July 2015 on "Early Preparedness Action to Reduce Disaster Risks", and NDRRMC Memorandum No. 54, s. 2020 "COVID-19 Preparedness Measures for Rainy Season";
- 4.1.1.6. **Conduct monthly assessment and ensure top shape functionality, in collaboration with DOST Regional Offices, of all established Early-Warning Systems (EWS)** such as automated rain gauges, water level sensors, and other local and indigenous early-warning systems within your areas of responsibility (AOR).
- 4.1.1.7. **Ensure unhampered logistics flow and supply chain management.** Identify and ensure that the main and sub-arterial supply routes are passable, coordinate with the local police on the operation of security and quarantine checkpoints, and the adjacent LGUs to ensure unhampered movements of cargo, goods and supplies. Review and update the inventory of relief goods and other resources (e.g., food and non-food items, such as

milled rice, hygiene kits, medicine, beddings; transport and logistics; stockpile of personal protective equipment, etc.). Given any identified supply gaps, undertake advance procurement, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

4.1.1.8. Enjoin family and household preparedness through the ***Gabay at Mapa para sa Listong Pamilyang Pilipino***. The go-bag or emergency *balde* should include COVID-19 essentials, such as soap, 70% alcohol, bleach, surgical or cloth masks, in addition to food, water, clothing, documents, communication items, among others. Increase family awareness in observing physical distancing and personal hygiene practices.

4.1.1.9. **Mutual Aid Response.** The Provincial Governors and City Mayors of Highly-Urbanized Cities (HUCs) are enjoined to work with their constituent LGUs, as well as forge mutual aid agreements with other neighboring LGUs, for the voluntary sharing of resources, such as evacuation centers, community isolation facilities, emergency services, supplies, funds, and crowd-sourced information and solutions to help each other mitigate and respond to the impacts of the rainy season, while at the same time addressing the most immediate challenges relating to health, food security, water and sanitation, protection, risk communication, among others.

They shall also coordinate and work closely with the regional offices of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and develop mechanisms for sharing the

use of the evacuation facilities constructed and maintained by these agencies.

- 4.1.1.10. **Improve public outreach** through emergency hotlines, help desks, online and social media platforms, posters, radio, text messaging, and other community-based messaging and public service announcements, and emphasize core messages, such as always observing minimum public health standards by keeping oneself always healthy, avoiding raw animal meat and opt for well-cooked food, practicing proper hand hygiene, wearing of masks and maintaining physical distancing, among others.

- 4.1.1.11. **Utilize the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Funds** - both the annual allocation and balances accruing to the LDRRMF Special Trust Fund. Note that LGUs are allowed to exceed 30 percent of the amount appropriated for the Quick Response Fund, as promulgated by the Department of Budget and Management Local Budget Circular No. 124. LGUs may need to update the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Investment Program (LDRRMIP) and the Annual Investment Program to maximize the LDRRMF. LGUs may also see the need to discuss with the Local Finance Committee other sources of funds that may complement preparedness, response and early recovery. For example, social, infrastructure and health programs and projects and those funded by the Local Development Fund and the Bayanihan Grant to LGUs. Explore non-regular sources of funds accessible to LGUs, such as new revenue resources, savings and augmentation, national government transfers, performance-based funds, inter-LGU fund transfers, grants, loans, etc.

4.1.1.12. **Maintain transparency and accountability in the utilization of Funds** especially in the expedient procurement procedures through direct negotiations per Government Procurement Policy Board Resolution No. 03-2020.

4.1.2. For DILG Regional Offices and BARMM-MILG:

4.1.2.1. Convene a Disaster Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for the rainy season and prepare, evaluate, and/or update the regional contingency plans for hydro-meteorological and health emergencies, and encourage the regional offices of the DPWH and DSWD to work closely with LGUs for sharing the use of evacuation facilities constructed by these agencies.

4.1.2.2. Enjoin LGUs within their respective areas of responsibility, particularly those with high to very high susceptibility to floods and landslides, to closely coordinate with PAGASA, DENR-MGB, and with DOH;

4.1.2.3. Monitor actions taken by all LGUs within your AOR, and extend technical assistance when necessary;

4.1.2.4. Cause the immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular.

5. References


- 5.1. DOST-PAGASA Seasonal Climate Outlook for the period June to November 2020;
- 5.2. DOST-PAGASA La Niña Alert for 2020;

- 5.3. Department of Health - Administrative Order No. 2020-0015 or the “Guidelines on the Risk-Based Public Health Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation”;
- 5.4. Operation L!STO Manual - Checklist of Early Preparation for Mayors;
- 5.5. DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2015-76 dated 21 July 2015 on “Early Preparedness Action to Reduce Disaster Risks”;
- 5.6. NDRRMC Memorandum No. 54, s. 2020 “COVID-19 Preparedness Measures for Rainy Season”
- 5.7. Department of Budget and Management Local Budget Circular No. 124 - Policy Guidelines on the Provision of Funds by LGUs for Programs, Projects and Activities to Address the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation;
- 5.8. Department of Budget and Management Local Budget Circular 125 and 126. Guidelines on the Release and Utilization of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities and Provinces; and
- 5.9. Government Procurement Policy Board Resolution No. 03-2020.

6. Effectivity

- 6.1. This Memorandum Circular takes effect immediately.

7. Approving Authority


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Secretary, DILG ^M



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