



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

*Tanggapan ng Kalihim*  
*Office of the Secretary*

Direct Line: 633-7208  
E-Mail [deped@pacific.net.ph](mailto:deped@pacific.net.ph)  
Website: <http://www.deped.gov.ph>

DepEd MEMORANDUM  
No. 23 , s. 2003

JAN 27 2003

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FOR EL NINO PHENOMENON

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Principals

1. Weather specialists have forecasted the forthcoming El Nino phenomenon. Enclosed is the El Nino Advisory 02/03 from the PAGASA, and its possible adverse impact on the citizenry.
2. Relevant to this, all field officials are advised to continue school and community -based activities that can mitigate the possible effects of El Nino, particularly on schoolchildren and the community, through the following:
  - a. Enhance the level of awareness of teachers and schoolchildren through the incorporation of the El Nino phenomenon into classroom discussions. Awareness level of teachers and schoolchildren can be further enhanced through interviews with farmers on the effects of El Nino on the agriculture sector.
  - b. Awaken the response level of school and community on how to mitigate the effects of the phenomenon through the improvement of health and sanitation practices to avoid possible diseases caused by the El Nino-related drought.
3. Wide and immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS  
Secretary

Encl.: As stated  
Reference: DECS Memorandum: No. 199, s. 1998  
Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)  
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

CAMPAIGN

HEALTH EDUCATION



Department of Science and Technology  
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and  
Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)  
ASIATRUST Bank Bldg., 1424 Quezon City  
Quezon City, Philippines

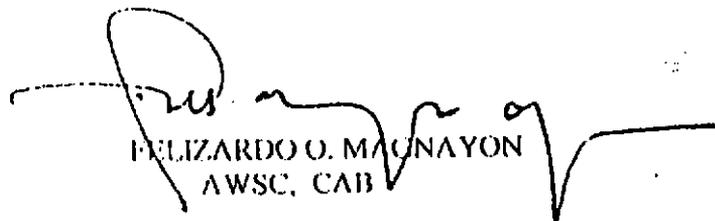
EL NINO ADVISORY  
02/03

The oceanic and atmospheric conditions indicate that the moderate El Nino is now in the state of maturity. Equatorial sea surface temperatures over the central and eastern Pacific remained to be more than 1.5 degree Celcius (C) above average. Moreover, the trade winds continue to be weak in the western equatorial Pacific but closer to average elsewhere. These oceanic and atmospheric conditions continued to affect local rainfall conditions in the archipelago which continued to be below the average. A significant climatic event now on record is the non-occurrence of any tropical cyclone in the PAR for the past four consecutive months (September-December 2002). Normally 1 or more tropical cyclones are recorded for each month.

Rainfall analyses for December 2002, showed that many parts of the country continued to experience below the average rainfall except southern Bicol where near normal rainfall was observed. On the other hand, analyses of the seasonal rainfall from October 2002 to December 2002, revealed that western and central Mindanao experienced very dry conditions.

The continued existence of a large area of positive SST anomalies of greater than 1.5 degrees C, as well as the persistence of westerly winds in the central Pacific and the eastward-shift of convection, all favor the continuance of warming conditions over the next 2-4 months of the following year. With these developments, many parts of the country will likely continue to experience below normal rainfall conditions. Potential drought impacts may cause crop failure and water shortages on areas where rainfall deficit is observed.

PAGASA will continue to monitor the day-to-day rainfall weather conditions over the country and the evolution of the present El Nino event. Meanwhile, all government agencies are advised to continue to take appropriate measures to mitigate the potential adverse impacts of the current El Nino on agriculture, water resources, hydropower generation, health and sanitation and other sectors.

  
FELIZARDO O. MAUNAYON  
AWSC, CAB

Issued: January 3, 2003  
National ENSO Early Warning and Monitoring Center  
Website: [www.philonline.com.ph/-cab](http://www.philonline.com.ph/-cab)