



JUL 05 2008

DepED MEMORANDUM
No. 320, s. 2008

OBSERVANCE OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH
AND SIMULTANEOUS CONDUCT OF EARTHQUAKE DRILL
IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

To: Regional Directors
ARMM Regional Secretary
Schools Division/City Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. In line with the observance of the 2008 National Disaster Consciousness Month this July, all public and private schools are hereby encouraged to conduct a simultaneous earthquake drill. The exercise will test the contingency plans of all schools to practice and inculcate an attitude of resiliency in the minds of the schoolchildren. The activity will also remind all school officials to be prepared and undertake all the necessary mitigation measures to protect all schoolchildren while attending their classes in schools. The theme of this year's observance is **"Pag Alerto, Malayo sa Peligro"**.

2. It may be mentioned that the killer quake in China which claimed almost 40,000 lives and wrought destructions and unprecedented damages to school properties happened during day time when students and pupils were attending classes in schools. The tragedy is more than enough to remind everyone that the conduct of drills and exercises will better equip the schoolchildren with knowledge on what to do before, during and after an earthquake.

3. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also directed all schools to conduct a quarterly earthquake drill in both public and private schools in order to protect the schoolchildren and prepare them for the occurrence of an earthquake. Since the second quarter of the year falls in the month of June, all schools are still busy with the enrolment and opening of classes, the 2nd Quarter Earthquake Drill will be undertaken on July 3, 2008 as part of the activities for the observance of the 2008 National Disaster Consciousness Month.

4. The ceremonial pressing of the button of the earthquake drill will be done at the Philippine School for the Deaf, Pasay City, National Capital Region at 11:00 am. It is here where the Secretary of National Defense, Secretaries of all NDCC member agencies and no less than the President herself will gather together and do the ceremonial pressing of the button as signal for all schools to start the drill nationwide.


5. During the whole month of July, all schools are encouraged to undertake the following activities:

- a. Hanging of streamers bearing the theme "Pag Alerto, Malayo sa Peligro";
- b. Conduct of Essay/Jingle/Poster/Slogan Making Contests;
- c. Activities protecting the environment such as tree planting, clean and green project, waste segregation and documentation of best practices on recycling, reducing and reusing of waste materials; water and energy conservation;
- d. Devoting one week for the discussion of disaster risk reduction in schools particularly in Araling Panlipunan and Science subjects as planned and agreed during the training of trainers and capability training of teachers last June 15-18 at Gems Hotel and Conference Center, Circumferential Road, Antipolo City;
- e. Prioritizing the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the school system (guidelines of which are contained in DepED Order No. 55, s. 2007 and DepED Memorandum No. 100, s. 2007);
- f. Inclusion of disaster risk reduction concepts during flag raising ceremonies, PTCA meetings and community gatherings;
- g. Advocating disaster risk reduction as a way of life at home and in the community;
- h. Conduct of drills and exercises relative to disaster preparedness; and
- i. Other related activities.

6. All policies and guidelines relative to the conduct of earthquake drills in schools can be accessed in the PHIVOLCS website (www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph) and are also contained in DepED Memorandum Nos. 300 and 221, s. 2006. Everyone is also advised to coordinate with the Local Disaster Coordinating Councils in the conduct of the activities.

7. Monitoring and evaluation of the observance of this year's National Disaster Consciousness Month shall be done by the Calamity/Disaster and Fire Control Group. Consolidated reports on the conduct of the above-stated activities shall be submitted to the Office of Director Maximo C. Aljibe, Chairman of the Calamity and Fire Control Group at DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than August 15, 2008.

8. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary
Officer-in-Charge

References: DepED Memorandum: Nos. 100, 256 and 284, s. 2007; 221
and 300, s. 2006;
DepED Order: No. 55, s. 2007

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

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Sally: earthquake drill
June 30, 2008