

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
Meralco Drive, Pasig, Metro Manila

August 18, 1993

DECS Order No. 68, s. 1993

**REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE SUSPENSION OF CLASSES
WHEN TYPHOONS AND OTHER CALAMITIES OCCUR**

To: Bureau Directors, Regional Directors, Schools Superintendents
Heads of State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities
Vocational School Superintendents/Administrators

1. **Reclassification of typhoons and newly modified procedures.** In the light of the recent reclassification of typhoons by PAGASA (especially the addition of a new Signal No. 4), and the subsequent conferences held between PAGASA and DECS, the guidelines on the suspension of classes in cases of typhoons and other calamities have been revised and are hereby issued for the information of all concerned:

1.1. Classes at the elementary and secondary levels shall be automatically suspended when new Signal No. 3 is raised. The appropriate announcement on whether to suspend classes under new Signal No. 3 shall be made at least 12 hours before the expected arrival of the typhoon. Previously, elementary classes were automatically suspended under the old Signal No. 2, and secondary classes under the old Signal No. 3.

1.2. Only elementary and secondary levels shall be automatically suspended. No automatic suspension of tertiary level classes will henceforth be made, except in cases where all government offices are closed as well, as may happen under new Signal No. 4.

1.3. Regardless of typhoon signals, classes may be suspended at any or all levels at the discretion of the individual school head, whether public or private, especially when (a) prolonged flooding occurs in the school area, or (b) other calamities such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes have occurred.

1.4. The automatic suspension of classes does not apply to school personnel, including teachers. They are required to report to their respective schools except when the Office of the President or its authorized counterpart in a region has declared that all government offices have been closed. In the case of private schools, the suspension of work by school personnel shall be at the discretion of the school head.

2. **Announcement of Suspension of Classes:** The announcement of suspension of classes shall be as follows:

2.1. In general, the Regional Director concerned shall announce the suspension, cancellation and/or postponement of classes in the particular region, division or district not later than 4:30 a.m. for morning sessions and at 10:00 a.m. for afternoon sessions, such announcements to be done through the appropriate media, especially radio.

2.2. The individual school heads shall make the announcement when there is an existence of localized conditions that endanger the health and safety of students in the school, such as severe and prolonged flooding of the school vicinity, as well as other developments warranting such decisions. School heads are enjoined to use their best judgment in this regard.

3. Lifting of the Suspension of Classes. The lifting of the suspension of classes shall be announced as follows:

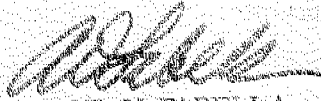
3.1. The Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports shall make the announcement in the rare case when suspension of classes is nationwide;

3.2. The Regional Director shall make the announcement when the suspension of classes is in some schools or divisions in the Region or the entire Region, and,

3.3. The school heads, when suspension was localized to their particular school.

4. The lifting of suspension of classes should be made preferably on the day before or at the latest not later than 4:30 a.m. on the day when classes are to be resumed. All media and other ways of communicating the resumption of classes to the public will be utilized.

5. All previous orders and regulations including DECS Order No. 32, s. 1990, MECS Order No. 43, s. 1986 and DECS Order No. 53, s. 1988 are superseded by this Order. A more detailed explanation of the modified Public Storm Warning Signals is attached, for ready reference.


ARMAND V. FABELLA
Secretary

References:

DECS Order No. 32, s. 1990
DECS Order No. 53, s. 1988
MECS Order No. 43, s. 1986

Allotment: 1-2-3-4 -- (M.O. 1-87)

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

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