

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

Subject: 1st Rapid National Disaster Needs Assessment re Typhoon "Juan"

(Post Activity Report on the aerial and ground assessment of the damages and needs of affected populace in Cagayan and Isabela provinces as of 20 Oct 2010)

Releasing Officer:



USEC. BENITO T. RAMOS

Executive Director, NDRRMC
and Administrator, OCD

Overview of the Mission:

On or about 0730H 20 October 2010, or less than 48 hours after Typhoon "Juan" (MEGI) made landfall in mid-northeastern Luzon, Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin, Chairperson, NDRRMC together with USec. Benito T. Ramos, Executive Director, NDRRMC/ Administrator, OCD; and joined by ASec Vilma B. Cabrera of DSWD; Dir. Betty Sumait of DPWH, Dir. Rodolfo Guieb of DA, Ms. Candelaria de Juan of DepEd and Defense Press Corps on board PAF F-27 plane took off Villamor Airbase to conduct rapid damage and needs assessment in Isabela and Cagayan.

The assessment group proceeded to Tuguegarao City first being the regional center for dialogue with the Regional DRRM Council, then proceeded to Ilagan, Isabela to meet with the local chief executives down to the municipal level. This report consists of three parts – two parts on the findings and one on assessment.

I. Findings in Cagayan:

- The Chairperson of RDRRMC2, Director Norma Talosig of OCD reported that Typhoon "Juan" brought very strong winds and heavy rains that resulted to heavy damages to houses, agricultural crops and fisheries in the region.
- Severe disruption in power distribution in the Cagayan Valley provinces were due to toppled transmission towers. Tuguegarao City Mayor Delfin Ting, however reported that best efforts are on-going for early restoration.
- Among the first responders in the badly-hit communities were the troops of the 5th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, AFP under the command of MGen Rommel Gomez who quickly deployed his prepositioned assets. Gen Gomez also reported an estimate of damages that can be subjected to further detailed assessments.
- The Police Regional Office 2, PNP led by PCS Francisco Villaroman likewise optimized preparedness actions by police officers down to the community level and are continuously involved in ensuring the safety of evacuation sites.
- The Province of Cagayan has so far reported only one (1) casualty, Vicente Decena who drowned after slipping in a creek and a few injured residents. Governor Alvaro Antonio submitted a partial report of damages, the higher valuation of which is in the agriculture sector (Php 336,730,000 worth).

- With most of the communication and power facilities on the process of being restored together with roads and bridges becoming more passable, the Provincial Government foresees that no significant factor can prevent the successful conduct of barangay elections as scheduled on October 25, 2010.

II. Findings in Isabela:

- The National Council Chairperson met Governor Faustino Dy III, Vice Gov. Rodolfo Albano III and the mayors of the following affected municipalities:

○ Tumauini	○ Alicia	○ Echague
○ San Mateo	○ Aurora	○ San Pablo
○ Delfin Albano	○ Angadanan	○ Cabatuan
○ Reina Mercedes	○ Jones	○ Quezon
○ Santo Tomas	○ Cabagan	○ Naguilian
○ San Mariano	○ Luna	○ Mallig
○ Maconacon	○ Cordon	○ Roxas
○ Santiago City	○ San Manuel	
- The local chief executives conservatively estimate the extent of damage at eighty percent (80%) of the croplands planted to rice, corn and other high value commercial crops with a partial aggregate figure of Php 1.27 Billion.
- Accordingly, the affected farmers are also victims of the recent “El Niño” phenomenon in the country. Agricultural recovery and support is considered an urgent need.
- For the displaced families, the most number among all the affected provinces, the provision of shelter assistance is critical. Tents are urgently needed.
- To sustain the needs of at the evacuation centers, most LGUs have asked for additional food support, at least good for another four (4) days.
- The local leaders are requesting for exemption from the on-going election ban for relief goods distribution to enable them to assist their constituents.
- With respect to the forthcoming Barangay Elections, the consensus among the local officials is to recommend that COMELEC will conduct the polls as scheduled except in the following coastal towns facing the Pacific Ocean:
 - Divilican
 - Maconacon
 - Palanan

III. Over-all Assessment:

- Being both agriculture-rich provinces, Cagayan and Isabela experienced a severe setback in its economic base with the damages and losses.
- The available stockpiles of rice and basic staples are assessed to be sufficient to subsist the entire consumer base in the region while the projected volume of outside assistance will most likely restore the supply soon enough.
- As the COMELEC decided to proceed with the forthcoming elections, with only the suspension of schedule in the three above-cited municipalities, the challenge is daunting for all stakeholders to ensure continuity of governance.
- To address the immediate needs of the affected communities, the LGUs should be consulted and involved in the delivery of whatever form of assistance is offered and accepted. The National Council will initially direct all relief efforts until the recovery phase is underway towards rehabilitation.