

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: Post-Evaluation Meeting re Preparedness and Response to Typhoon "Juan"
(22 October 2010, 10:00 AM at NDMC, CGEA, QC)

Releasing Officer:



USEC. BENITO T. RAMOS
Executive Director, NDRRMC
and Administrator, OCD

Call to Order:

USEC Benito T. Ramos, Executive Director, NDRRMC/Administrator, Office of Civil Defense presided the meeting called for concerned agencies to report on post-evaluation on preparedness and response actions they have undertaken relative to Typhoon "Juan".

In attendance were USEC Graciano P. Yumul, Jr., PAGASA-DOST; ASEC Vilma B. Cabrera, DSWD; Assistant Executive Secretary Lynn D. Moreno, OES; LtGen. Reynaldo Mapagu, Vice Chief of Staff, AFP; MGen Emmanuel Bautista, J3, COL Benito De Leon, AFPCC; PSSUPT Rustico Bascugin, PNP; and other representatives from concerned NDRRMC-TMG: DepED, DA, DILG, PIA, DFA, BFP, NEDA, PHIVOLCS, DPWH, PCG, DOH, NGCP, DOST, and NEA.

ED, NDRRMC advised that the NDRRMC and other concerned agencies are still on-RED alert status following TY "Juan's" departure from the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and the approaching weather disturbance to be named "Katring", and that the country will be expecting six (6) more cyclones to enter PAR before the year ends.

Weather Update by PAGASA

- TY "Juan" is now outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and is moving slowly away from the country.
- The weather in Region 2 is now improving.
- A tropical depression (TD) approaching RP will probably enter PAR late Sunday.
- The cloudiness in circulation east of Luzon is associated with the approaching TD.
- TD "Katring" will not be as strong as TY "Juan" when it reaches land. Its track shows that it will not directly hit land and will hopefully change track (it is still early to tell). PAGASA is closely monitoring the situation (in the northern part of Luzon) as this latest weather disturbance is still far away from the country.
- ED, NDRRMC advised that communities in the Cagayan Valley area, the Bicol area have to prepare this early; if ever the coming TD changes track, what is important is that preparations are being done.
- ED, NDRRMC stated that the authorized sources of information on typhoons/tropical cyclones and other hazards are the NDRRMC, DRRMCs in the Provinces and Regions, PAGASA, and the Office of the President. Information received should be verified/confirmed first before dissemination to avoid confusion among the public.

Initial Assessment on Agencies' Preparedness and Response Actions:

- The **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** reported that it has received an additional amount for its Quick Response Fund (QRF) as continuing support to its relief operations and core shelter units assistance.
 - The core shelter model adopted by the DSWD since the 1990's has proven to be durable, safe and intact and could withstand the test of time (based on accounts by Mayors, Governors) compared with other models.
- Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs) actively lead in providing assistance to their immediate constituents.
- Best Practices: PDRRMC and MDRRMC in Isabela and other affected areas followed and replicated DSWD's practice of prepositioning food and non-food items (NFIs).
- National and Regional Resource Operations Centers (N/RROCs) still have standby food and NFIs even for coming typhoons.
- Families affected/displaced by TY "Juan" were also El Niño phenomenon victims this year so their situation requires support from the government.
- DSWD is also expecting additional release of calamity fund worth P10M for Regions 1, 2 and CAR to augment requirements for supplies, food and NFIs.
- ED, NDRRMC has stated that the National Government still has enough rice supply, and sought the cooperation and assistance of the DTI and the PNP in monitoring the prices of basic commodities.
 - The DTI has reported during the last meeting that it has been monitoring the prices of basic commodities. The Price Monitoring and Coordinating Councils are also in-place in the affected regions.
- The **Department of Education (DepED)** had its coordinators and engineers on the field.
- Damages:
 - 1,275 classrooms in Regions 1, 2, 3, and CAR.
 - P199.489M worth of damages to classrooms – still to be validated to ascertain actual cost of repair.
- 31 schools in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4-A were used as evacuation centers (ECs) for 947 families/3,409 persons.
- Alternative delivery modes to start normalizing classes:
 - For schools with damaged classrooms, modules will be provided for students to study at home
 - Teacher visits to meet students in affected areas
 - Tents were provided as temporary classrooms
- Even before TY "Juan" has entered PAR, with PAGASA Advisory, the **Department of Agriculture (DA)** had already activated its response, monitoring, and data management teams (protocol, organized since 1996) down to provincial and regional levels (24 hours activation, if necessary)
 - Has developed system of assessing damages
 - With databases of existing standing crops with models developed
 - With models to determine if crops were still in its initial stage of development and the damage it would incur if destroyed by the typhoon
 - Incurred P75M losses based on field validation and models
- Proposed Rehabilitation Plan for TY "Juan" Damage:
 - DA will provide seeds to affected farmers prepositioned on areas heavily affected
 - Will try to mobilize 142,000 bags of rice
 - Heavily affected areas: Pangasinan (already badly hit by TY "Pepeng" in 2009 caused delay in palay farming and was now also severely affected by TY "Juan") and Isabela

- For completely damaged crops/farms, DA will provide grant of 40 kilos certified seeds and 20 bags grant for partially damaged crops.
- USEC Yumul suggested on the idea of risk insurance with a weather-index base, which the National Government can initiate. This will insure automatic payments to farmers of their damaged crops even if the typhoon signal is 1, 2, or 3 (weather-based insurance based on PAGASA warning signals (can be endorsed/backed-up by the DOST). (This can be discussed with NEDA.)
 - The Philippine Crop Insurance is currently studying this initiative (with a funded project to pursue weather index-based insurance (still needs to be studied further).
- As early as 15 August, upon PAGASA Advisory on the setting in of the typhoon season, the **Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)** had already prepared its calamities response protocols; issued Advisories to its Regional Directors to advise Local Chief Executives (LCEs) to activate all protocols.
- ED, NDRRMC advised the DILG to exhaust local government calamity funds first before requesting from the national or the presidential calamity fund. The LGU, in coordination with the OCD Regional Office, requesting for calamity fund assistance, should undergo the usual procedure (as the NDRRMC only processes requests). Chairman, NDRRMC recommends approval to the President on such calamity fund requests. The President either approves or disapproves.
- The **Department of Health (DOH)** approach to TY “Juan” response is thru its regional office level (DOH Central Office monitors its regional offices).
- There is coding system per Center for Health Development (CHD) with standby response teams and prepositioned drugs and medical supplies; DOH assets in place at CHD 1, 2, 3, CAR, and NCR; and hospitals in place in Regions 1, 2, and CAR.
- The longer the evacuees stay in the evacuation centers (ECs), the more prone they are in acquiring communicable diseases because of close contact with one another.
- The **Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)** reported TY “Juan’s” infrastructure damages at P73.6M
- As of 8:00 PM yesterday, DPWH equipment have been deployed and clearing operations were on-going in the affected areas.
- The **Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)** reported on its preparedness and response actions undertaken from the pre-disaster (October 14-18) to the post-disaster (October 19-21) phases.
- Today, the Navy Forces are landing in Palanan, Isabela to deliver supplies.
- One major problem encountered in the delivery of supplies:
 - tedious procedures in obtaining diplomatic clearance which delayed the entry of assisting foreign aircraft (but the AFP was still able to assist different line agencies despite the problem).
 - USEC Yumul advised the same challenge had been discussed in the past. Since we already have the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the procedure can be streamlined and the ED, NDRRMC just needs to sign requests.
 - The **Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)** representative assured the body that the DFA is doing its roles and functions of assisting agencies in obtaining diplomatic clearances for foreign aircraft. It has in fact existing regulations with the AFP and the DND. Requests, however, should contain specific information needed on the aircraft to facilitate its entry. The DFA also even has an existing agreement with the US for diplomatic clearances.

- DFA to conduct small group meeting with the AFP and the DND to review/revise the existing regulations, streamline and fast track the processes, and expedite issuance and facilitation of diplomatic clearances.
- On October 15, the **Philippine National Police (PNP)** Sub-Committee on Disaster Management has established and activated its National Disaster Operations Center, manned and maintained by PNP personnel on a 24/7 basis. They have monitored TY “Juan” and PNP Stations in the field were directed to assist LGUs and other National Government Agencies (NGAs) in responding to the typhoon.
 - Regional Directors were directed to submit reports every hour.
 - PNP personnel were also directed to assist the DSWD in maintaining peace and order in the ECs and assist DPWH in road clearing operations.
- The **National Electrification Administration (NEA)** has employed Task Force Cagayan and Isabela to help electric cooperatives (58 linemen sent to assist Region 3 electric cooperatives).
 - They have yet to give figures on damages as their assessment is still on-going.
 - Region 1 – almost 100% power restored; western side of Luzon – 100% power restored; Isabela, Cagayan, Kalinga – the **National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP)** committed to have power restored by Sunday at 6:00AM (just-in-time to support the conduct of Barangay Elections in those areas).
 - The NGCP also reported that its restored transmission towers have increased to 12.
- The **Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)** could not give a post-evaluation report yet because their people are still on the ground. Aside from typhoon concerns, they are also attending to the Oil Spill in Pagudpod, Ilocos Norte, wherein 800 meters of shoreline is now affected.
 - ED, NDRRMC commended the PCG since there was no report of any fisherman dying or missing due to the typhoon.
 - The PCG credited it to disseminating information to fishermen the earliest time possible time and the immediate issuance of appropriate memorandum circular giving instructions to LGUs and fishermen.
- The **Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)** reported on its capabilities and assets as it is not only mandated for fire suppression but also provision of emergency and rescue services. As soon as alerts were received, all BFP personnel on-leave and off-duty were called to operations. Better and closer collaboration and coordination among agencies result to better operations.
- The **Philippine Information Agency (PIA)** plans to discuss with Chief, OCD-OpCen PIA-OpCen collaboration. It has lead the group to its official website www.pia.gov.ph where updated information on TY “Juan” and other approaching weather disturbances can be found, as well as its Facebook account where people can raise their concerns.
 - ED, NDRRMC acknowledged the assistance the PIA has extended in information dissemination.
 - The PIA encouraged issuance of announcements in the government channel NBN-4 and the Radyo ng Bayan.
- The **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)**, Vice-Chairperson on Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery emphasized on the difference between NEDA’s “recovery” and the DSWD’s “recovery” phase.

- NEDA gave a short information on the Rehabilitation and Recovery Planning it has started to undertake, the concept note of which is for distribution to its regional offices to initiate the planning.
- The crafting of Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Post “Juan” Rehabilitation will consider:
 - Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Immediate and long-term interventions
 - Rebuilding livelihoods and infrastructure
 - Psychosocial services for disaster victims
- The **Office of the Executive Secretary (OES)** will be giving a feedback to His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III on significant matters discussed during this meeting.

Others Matters:

- On the use of appropriate terminologies like “**storm surge**” (or sea level rise) which refers to the rise of water usually associated with tropical cyclones, differentiating it from a **tsunami** which is a series of tidal waves generated by an earthquake or volcanic eruption. These terminologies should be used properly to avoid causing panic among the public.

Guidance of the ED, NDRRMC:

- In the conduct of disaster needs assessment, all agencies and partners must be guided by the following:
 - First Hit, First Served
 - First Offered, First Accepted
 - First Recovered, First rehabilitated

(Reference: NDRRMC Circular No. 1 s. 2010, dated 22 October 2010 re Guidance in the Conduct of Disaster Needs Assessment re TY “Juan” uploaded at www.ndcc.gov.ph).

The meeting which was covered by the Defense Press Corps adjourned at 1300H.

Prepared by:

The NDRRMC Secretariat