



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

# NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the NDRRMC Meeting Of the National Cluster Leaders and Vice-Chairpersons for Response and Rehabilitation

(December 27, 2011, NDRRMC Conference Room, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City)

**Presiding Officer:** CDR EDGARDO J. OLLET, MNSA  
Chief of Operations, NDRRMC

**Participants:** DPWH, DFA, NFA, AFP-J3/ J7/CRS/NADESCOM/CC, NEDA, PAGASA, DOF, BOC, DepED, DOH, DA, DBM, DSWD, PIA, OCD, DENR-MGB and NCMF (see attached attendance list)

### Agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Weather Outlook
- III. Updates on On-Going Humanitarian Relief and Rehabilitation
- IV. Review of Existing Guidelines on Early Recovery
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Other Matters
- VII. Adjournment

## PROCEEDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### I. Call to Order

On behalf of the Civil Defense Administrator and Executive Director, NDRRMC, USEC Benito T. Ramos, who is personally attending to ground operations in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities, CDR Edgardo J. Ollet, Chief of Operations, NDRRMC called to order and presided over the meeting.

Chief OPCEN laid out the authority behind the meeting and ensuing meetings. These are the (a) Presidential Guidance on 16 December 2011 re-Review of operational protocols, manual of response, etc., (b) Presidential Proclamation 303 dated 20 December 2011 in keeping with RA 10121 for the “rescue, recovery, relief and rehabilitation”.

The following is the discussion outline which sets the goals of the meeting as presented by the Chief OPCEN:

1. "Transitory" Guidelines for the One-Stop-Shop Facility for TS SENDONG (Washi)
2. Revision/Adoption of the Cluster Approach in the NDRRMC System
3. Vice-Chair for Response CONPLAN (Intervention)/Imaginary "timelines" (Lead: DSWD)
4. Vice-Chair for Rehabilitation /Imaginary "timelines" i.e. Housing & Relocation Program (Lead: NEDA)
5. Early Warning and Preparedness Measures re-LPA, Monsoons and Weather Disturbances, La Nina (Lead: DILG, PAGASA-DOST)

## **II. Weather Outlook**

1. Mr. Robert S. Sawi of PAGASA presented the weather outlook for the next 5 days ending on January 1, 2012.
2. The presence of a LPA in Mindanao caused the severe flooding in the Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao.
3. PAGASA however predicted that December 31, 2011 and January 1, 2012 will be rainy.
4. Lastly, no Tropical Cyclone (TC) is expected to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) for the remaining days of the year.

## **III. Updates on the Ongoing Humanitarian Relief and Rehabilitation**

### **Positive Highlights in the ongoing Response and Rehabilitation efforts:**

#### **i. RELIEF ASSISTANCE**

- An overwhelming sympathy and support from the national and international community came in as seen in the huge quantities of food and non-food items entering Cagayan de Oro and Iligan;
- The devastation caused by TS "Sendong" is extensive and overwhelming hence, the Philippine Government through the NDRRMC welcomes International Support to aid in response and speedy rehabilitation of all affected communities. Donations from several International Organizations have already reached the affected areas and a lot more is expressing intent to donate.
- A 5-man humanitarian mission team sent by the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to

assess and consult with the Local Government Units (LGUs) in the TS “SENDONG” (WASHI) affected areas on 26-30 December 2011 was accepted and escorted by NDRRMC OPCEN from NAIA to CDO until they have completed their mission

- Chief, OPCEN articulated the need to review and revise guidelines pertaining to the relevance of the Cluster Approach and other humanitarian protocols of the NDRRMC in the light of the OIC involvement in Northern Mindanao. Unlike in TS “Ondoy” (KETSANA) which affected Metro Manila, the cultural and political-sensitive Mindanao may need a different approach
- The following is the status of international humanitarian aid as presented by Deputy Chief, OPCEN, Engr. Florentino Sison.

Note: Status as of 26 December 2011

DONOR	ITEM CATEGORY	CONSIGNEE	POINT OF ENTRY	REMARK/S
UNWFP	High Energy Biscuits	DSWD	CLARK to CDO	<b>ARRIVED:</b> 24 DEC: 8.3 met. tons
			NAIA to CDO via C130	<b>ARRIVED:</b> 25 DEC: 7.21 met. tons
	15, 000 blankets 15,000 soap bars 400 units multipurpose tents 25sqm.	<b>Plan Disaster Response Desk in CDO City – c/o Mr. Baltazar Tribunalo</b>	Davao International Airport	<b>ARRIVED:</b> 26 DEC 2011, 6:30 AM
JICA	NFIs (Shelter/ Rehabilitation): Generators; Tents; Blankets	DSWD	CDO	<b>ARRIVED:</b> OPERATIONAL
ROTARY INT’L	Shelter Boxes	DSWD	CDO	<b>ARRIVED:</b> OPERATIONAL
PH EMBASSY, INDONESIA	Assorted Food and NFIs	DSWD	CDO	<b>ARRIVED:</b> ONGOING DISTRIBUTION
GOV’T of SWITZERLAND	300,000.00 Swiss Francs (Cash/ kind); WASH Team	DSWD/ DOH	CDO/ ILIGAN	<b>UNDERWAY</b>

EU CIVIL PROTECTION	Tents, Mattresses, Blankets, Water and Sanitation Kits (WASH)	DSWD	NAIA to CDO via C130	UNDERWAY
UNHCR via DUBAI SUPPLY HUB	NFIs (10,080 Blankets; 4,000 Jerry Cans; 2,016 Kitchen Set; 4,000 plastic sheets; 180 Plastic rolls)	DSWD	NAIA to CDO	UNDERWAY
EMBASSY OF SPAIN	200,000 EUROS for LOCAL PURCHASE of Relief Items	DSWD	TO BE ARRANGED	
ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER	FOR CONFIRMATION			
WORLD BANK	Funding Support	NDRRMC/ DSWD/ DOF	Philippine Treasury	Existing Agreement with World Bank

## ii. **BOC (One-Stop Shop)**

- Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Ruffy Biazon, talked about the trouble he had to go through in processing the water purifier equipment consigned to and facilitated by the Lasallian Brothers from abroad. As per E.O. 381, DSWD should be the only consignee of foreign donations to avail of tax exemption. The Commissioner had to intervene in order to facilitate its entry. A water treatment facility courtesy of the US Government is also expected to arrive according to Commissioner Biazon.
- The “One-Stop Shop” (OSS) was already activated in CDO though another OSS has to be opened and activated in the Davao International Airport.
- Commissioner Biazon also called for adherence to the OSS guidelines and coordinate with the NDRRMC, being the central communication and coordination hub, all information about donations that would enter the country. He also advised potential donors to engage the services of registered brokers to facilitate the processing of documents. Furthermore, an application for terminal release should already be filed in advance for immediate release from the immigration without

entering the facilities of private companies handling storage services to avoid paying fees for such services.

- A suggestion was also made for the DSWD to amend its guidelines re accreditation of Private Organizations (POs)/ NGOs in the country that will enable them, temporarily in times of disasters, to be consignees of foreign donated items and be exempt from all tariff and customs taxes. A concern was also raised as to the capability of the Department to handle the deployment and logistics re-donated items.
- AFP also reported about the entry of UNWFPs NFIs and tents at Davao International Airport. The hauling is underway by military personnel. J3 and J7 mentioned about the tranches for transporting the donations from Davao to CDO and Iligan at about 6-hour land travel. Col. Galvez (J3) also added that SAR operations were conducted in the flooded areas in Pulangi, Bukidnon due to the effects of the LPA – more than a hundred people were rescued.

### iii. **DPWH (Mandulog Bridges 1 and 2)**

- DPWH continues its clearing operations as additional manpower was tapped to augment its current workforce that is currently constructing temporary bridges. The Total cost of damage was estimated at **PHP 965.5 million** with Region X having **PHP 961.45 million** worth of damages. Mandulog Bridges 1 and 2 that were severed by TS “Sendong” curtailing the delivery of relief and services to the people is now ready for immediate rehabilitation as DBM released PHP200M to DPWH for the said bridges. Some of the Department’s equipment in NCR are to be transported in Region X.
- Three (3) Road Sections were closed to traffic due to landslides, road cuts and a collapsed bridge.
  - ❖ Bukidnon
    1. SH Manolo Fortich Libona km 1465+042- not passable due to washed out drainage structures
  - ❖ Cagayan de Oro
    2. Lumbia-Uguiban By-pass Road, Mangalay Section closed to traffic due to landslides
  - ❖ Lanao Del Norte
    3. Highway Diversion Road – Collapsed Mandulog Bridge

**iv. DFA (Issuances to Embassies/ Consular Offices)**

- DFA assured the Council that it had already issued advisories to its Embassies/ Consulates about EO 831 stating that DSWD shall be the ONLY consignee of all foreign donations re TS “Sendong” while the center of action and coordination is the NDRRMC.

**v. DepEd (Classroom-tents )**

- In the case of classrooms that are currently being used as evacuations centers, DepEd said that there are more than enough “classroom tents” that can be used by graduating students for them to finish the rest of their lectures for the school year. There were 40 schools affected by the tropical storm: 6 teachers as casualties; 11 schools currently being used as evacuation centers and damage estimate of more or less PHP 107.5M. DepEd also mentioned about the availability of an 80sqm classroom tent that can hold two classes and a 40sqm for a single class of kindergarten or pre-school students.

**vi. NFA (Stock Inventory)**

- NFA currently has enough stockpile of rice stored in warehouses in the affected areas that could last for more than a month. It already released 7,125 bags of rice to the affected areas.

**vii. DILG (Early Warning System)**

- The DILG tested its improved Early Warning System with the help of local/ barangay executives by implementing pre-emptive evacuation of residents living within the hazard / flood-prone areas which resulted to a zero-casualty scenario during the flashflood in the recent LPAs of December 25 and 27 per PAGASA’s advisories.

**viii. NDRRMC (Revision of Cluster Approach)**

- An amendment to the NDCC Circular Numbers 5, s. 2007, 4 and 12, s. 2008 re the Institutionalization of the Cluster Approach in the Philippine Disaster Management System, Designation of Cluster Leads and their Terms of Reference at the National, Regional and Provincial Levels is underway that calls for, among others, the strengthening of the coordination mechanism between and among the clusters from the national to local levels

- Pertinent inclusions in the said amendment are the involvement of DENR-MGB in the Livelihood Cluster through certification of safe relocation sites and NEDA in Early Recovery through its Strategic Action Plan for development

**ix. DBM-DILG (Construction of Evacuation Centers)**

- The DILG and DBM intends to enter into a joint memorandum allowing the use of 20% of the LGU's Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) in the construction of evacuation centers particularly in areas frequented by disasters.
- This is a welcome development for DepEd since in the wake of disasters, schools/ students are the ones left more affected.

**x. NEDA (STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN)**

- The agency is in the final preparation of its Strategic Action Plan that consists of individual plan of rehabilitation for all affected regions which includes damage assessment, list of projects and funding requirement.

**xi. DBM (ADDITIONAL FUND APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT)**

- According to DBM, the President approved an additional PHP1.1B Calamity Fund for Response and Rehabilitation to the affected areas

**IV. Issues and Concerns/ Other Matters**

**i. ONE-STOP SHOP**

- Reiteration that all foreign donations should be coursed through the NDRRMC, being the information hub, which shall then be coordinated with the DSWD as the sole consignee of the shipment. This is done to monitor and "inventorize" all forms of assistance (FOOD and NON-FOOD ITEMS) entering the country.
- Since only one (1) C130 is operational and Lumbia Airport in CDO can only accommodate much, NDRRMC and PAF should look into the possibility of landing/ receiving foreign donations directly to the Davao International Airport wherein the lone C130 can make more frequent travels from Davao to CDO compared to the current 2-3 shuttles/day from NAIA to CDO

- The Council suggested to DSWD to come up with a memorandum to fastrack temporary accreditation of Private Organizations (POs) and NGOs to hasten customs process and avoid paperwork at the BOC (the BOC is bound by law to tax even foreign donations not consigned to DSWD as DSWD is the only consignee that is exempt from tax per Tax and Tariff Code)
- BOC also advised all potential donors to hire the service of brokers for the necessary documentations as their office can no longer accommodate such additional processing load
- Also, the inclusion of private warehouse owners in the loop of the NDRRMC OSS can be a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) strategy in facilitating humanitarian assistance from abroad.
- While NDRRMC OPCEN is the central hub for information and database, the handling of communications for the longer TS “Sendong” operations can be channeled to PIA

## **ii. CLEARING OPERATIONS AND REMOVAL OF DEBRIS**

- DPWH articulated the need for additional manpower and equipment to intensify clearing operations. Though AFP, BFP and other volunteers are helping already, the task is huge. DPWH is requested to submit a report mapping out the affected areas where removal of debris and clearing operations need concentration of workforce and sets of equipment from volunteers in Metro Manila and nearby regions.

## **iii. RELEASE OF CALAMITY FUND**

- The DBM advised all agencies involved in response and rehabilitation that in order for the additional calamity fund to be released, a recommendation from the NDRRMC shall be needed and forwarded to the Office of the President (OP) for it to advise DBM

## **iv. DECONGESTION OF EVACUATION CENTERS**

- It was raised in the meeting that it may perhaps be more cost efficient and long term if families who wish to leave the evacuation centers were provided money/ transport service to leave the evacuation centers and stay with their relatives than continue keeping them in evacuation centers for more relief assistance.
- The issue of the duration of operation of evacuation centers and commencement and extent of recovery operations were also raised.



- LGUs may also provide permanent housing on MGB certified lots rather than feeding evacuees in the ECs for months.
- Avoid unwanted pregnancies and spread of illnesses.

**v. MASSIVE STRESS DEBRIEFING**

- Massive stress debriefing is urgent as alcoholism and hysteria (i.e. after seeing their damaged houses, dead relatives) are increasingly observed among victims

**vi. BETTER GROUND COORDINATION**

- Miscommunication, duplication of functions and non-delivery of actual needs should be averted especially at the operational level. A “small-group” meeting for better coordination between response agencies (OCD, DSWD, DepED and DOH) was arranged and conducted after the meeting for the national focal persons to communicate to their counterparts on the ground.
- A preliminary assessment tool in a matrix form was devised by the group to complement ground assessment as aid in the early recovery approach.

**vii. CASUALTY COUNT**

- The discrepancy on figures reported between the NDRRMC and DOH occurs since DOH bases its count only on identified bodies and/or with death certificates for financial assistance claims, while the NDRRMC bases its figures on the head/body count regardless of identification/ anonymity for operational purposes (need for additional body bags, rescue equipment/team)

**vii. INVESTIGATION STUDY GROUP**

- Aside from the role of the DENR-MGB in the assessment and certification of safe areas for emergency shelter and relocation program (permanent housing), inquiry was made if there is a Task Committee led by DENR to examine and assess scientifically probable explanation that may have caused the flashflood disaster in CDO and Iligan cities. There was none yet according to Dr. Seville David.

**V. Actions Taken/Way Ahead**

Everyone was advised to further intensify the monitoring, evacuation, search and rescue for the missing and continue the relief and early recovery efforts of the government.

## **VI. Adjournment**

With no issues further raised, CDR Edgardo J. Ollet thanked the attendees for their participation and scheduled a follow-up meeting on the first week of January for updates on the resolution of issues raised.

**Prepared by:**

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Noted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Ollet', written over the 'Noted by:' text.

**DIR. EDGARDO J. OLLET, MNSA**  
**Director for Operations, NDRRMC**