



MAY 20 2024

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 04, s. 2024

TO : MEMBERS, TASK FORCE EL NIÑO (Per EO No. 53, s. 2024);
MEMBERS, NATIONAL/REGIONAL/LOCAL DRRMCs and
OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES, OFFICES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: TASK FORCE EL NIÑO STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)

1. REFERENCES

- 1.1. Executive Order No. 53, s. 2024, dated January 19, 2024
- 1.2. DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2023-065 dated April 25, 2023 "Mitigation and Preparedness Measures for the El Niño Phenomenon 2023;
- 1.3. Presidential Directive No. PBBM-2023-320 Implementation of Whole-of-Government Measures to Prepare for El Niño dated April 18, 2023
- 1.4. Memo Order No. 38, s. 2019 Reactivating and Reconstituting the El Niño Task Force Created Pursuant to Executive Order No. 16 (s. 2001), and for other purposes
- 1.5. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework
- 1.6. Expanded Roadmap for Addressing the Impact of El Niño (E-RAIN)
- 1.7. DOST-PAGASA Climate Monitoring and Analyses

2. RATIONALE

In March 2023, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) detected unusual sea surface warming in the equatorial Pacific, developing into a forecasted weak El Niño expected to strengthen. This phenomenon raises concerns about below-normal rainfall, leading to potential negative impacts on vital sectors such as water resources, agriculture, energy, health, and public safety. While an enhanced Southwest Monsoon season (Habagat) is anticipated, which may bring above-normal rainfall to the western part of the country, the recurring El Niño poses serious consequences for agriculture, disrupting food supply, power, water, and environmental and health services. To address this, immediate short, medium, and long-term solutions are essential to protect the country's livelihood and fundamental needs while mitigating adverse effects.

In light of the foregoing and in compliance with the Executive Order No. 53, s. 2024, the Task Force El Niño was reconstituted and reactivated to address and prepare for the adverse impacts of El Niño.

Guided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's (NDRRMC) four (4) thematic areas (Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response and Early Recovery, and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery), and the National Action Plan Framework, it is imperative that interventions, activities, and actions undertaken by all relevant agencies prioritize effective implementation addressing food, water, energy, health, and public safety.

3. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

This issuance shall guide all members of the Task Force, the National/Regional/Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee, and all concerned actors to implement necessary interventions against the adverse impacts of El Niño.

The purpose of this document is to complement the Executive Order No. 53 by providing general guidelines to synergize all efforts in mitigating the effects of El Niño for all concerned leads and members.

4. GUIDELINES

General

- 4.1. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 53, s. 2024, the Task Force El Niño's primary function is to strengthen the inter-agency coordination and efforts as well as delivery of assistance to reduce the possible effects of El Niño on the people's welfare, livelihood, and the country's economy.
- 4.2. The existing National Action Plan shall be enhanced and transformed into a Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) to serve as a guide in mitigating the possible effects of the El Niño phenomenon.
- 4.3. In updating the SNAP, the Task Force shall ensure that the principles of Contingency Planning that is hazard-specific and scenario-based are included. Further, the Task Force shall assess the potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with El Niño in different regions. This includes evaluating the impact on agriculture, water availability, infrastructure, and public health.
- 4.4. To address El Niño-related challenges, there is a need to efficiently allocate resources to implement strategies and plans, ensuring the prompt availability of funds, personnel, and equipment, and also foster collaboration and information sharing among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners involved in El Niño management to achieve a unified and coordinated response.
- 4.5. The five (5) key/lead sectors to carry out the mitigation efforts and implementation of actions and plans shall be *Food Security, Water Security, Energy Security, Health Security, and Public Safety*.

4.5.1. Food Security

The **Department of Agriculture (DA)** shall serve as the lead for food security concerns for the El Niño phenomenon. Its focus is to guarantee a stable supply of key food commodities that is both accessible and affordable, while also providing ample protection to farmers and fisherfolks against income losses resulting from the impacts of El Niño.

The DA and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with the assistance of other relevant agencies, shall take necessary steps to stabilize the price of necessities and prime commodities.

4.5.2. **Water Security**

The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** shall spearhead necessary interventions to reduce the impact of water shortage in the country's most affected areas. The DENR, in coordination with other concerned agencies, shall ensure sufficient and appropriate quality of water resources for potable water supply, irrigation, and other beneficial uses. Priority is provided to the most vulnerable sectors and communities to ensure their water security.

4.5.3. **Energy Security**

The **Department of Energy (DOE)**, in coordination with relevant agencies and the energy industry participants, shall ensure adequate, reliable and continuous delivery of energy-related services, through the efficient management and distribution of power and oil supply and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation interventions. The DOE shall likewise work with critical facilities, such as hospitals, government facilities, and water districts and the likes, to implement adequate energy security measures to ensure continuous delivery of basic services, in coordination with relevant government agencies.

4.5.4. **Health Security**

The **Department of Health (DOH)**, as the lead agency for the Health Security Sector, shall lead in the continuous delivery of health services in all healthcare facilities in the country. Particularly, in coordination with relevant agencies, ensure the adequacy of health commodities, water, and electricity supplies.

The DOH shall likewise provide timely support and health advisories to health facilities and communities to manage the adverse effects of El Niño on health.

4.5.5. **Public Safety**

The **Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)** shall manage community-based public order and safety initiatives, in close coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and the cooperation of Local Government Units (LGUs). Specifically, the DILG, through the PNP and BFP, shall ensure a safe, peaceful, and orderly community in managing the effects of the El Niño.

4.5.6. **Cross-Cutting Interventions**

All agencies shall develop and implement their respective interventions and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, through the leadership of the Presidential Communications Office, to ensure extensive information dissemination and public awareness.

The **Department of Science and Technology (DOST)** shall regularly conduct climate outlook, in coordination with concerned public and private media outlets for widest dissemination and reach.

Specific

4.6. Pursuant to Section 4 of Executive Order No. 53, s. 2024, the Task Force shall formulate and launch the **El Niño Southern Oscillation Online Platform**.

4.6.1. **The El Niño Southern Oscillation Online Platform (ENOP)**

- 4.6.1.1. The Task Force, through the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and DOST, shall formulate and launch an ENOP to centralize all related data and information pertaining to El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- 4.6.1.2. All relevant agencies, as may be identified by the Task Force, shall provide appropriate ENSO-related data through the platform.
- 4.6.1.3. The OCD shall ensure the compliance of relevant agencies to contribute and upload appropriate ENSO-related data through the platform.
- 4.6.1.4. DOST shall continue to provide technical assistance for the development and enhancement of the ENOP while the DICT shall continue to provide necessary ICT infrastructure and resources, and ensure the security of the platform.
- 4.6.1.5. A Technical Committee, co-chaired by DICT and DOST, may be formed for this purpose.
- 4.6.1.6. The key/lead agencies shall administer the provision of accounts for sector users and members.

4.6.2. **Minimum Requirements**

- 4.6.2.1. The Platform shall include a feature where National Government Agencies and LGUs may access the platform for data-sharing, including but not limited to, exposure database, inventory of assets, data analytics, historical and scientific data, SNAP implementation monitoring and evaluation, monitoring of reports for localized effects, and public awareness.
- 4.6.2.2. The file types that the system accepts are currently limited to: png, jpg, jpeg, pdf, pptx, docx, mp4, xls, xlsx, mpg, and mpeg.
- 4.6.2.3. The Platform shall also include a public feature where the general public may be able to report El Niño-related incidents, such as water supply interruption, poor water quality, power interruptions, and forest/pit fires that may occur in their respective localities.

4.6.3. **Technical Working Group (TWG)** is tasked to assess the potential risks and impacts of El Niño on different sectors. This involves analyzing historical data and collaborating with experts from various fields to understand how El Niño may affect specific regions.

- 4.6.3.1. Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order No. 53, s. 2024, the Task force may establish a TWG, composed of Undersecretaries or its equivalent and not lower than a Director, to serve as a technical arm of the Task Force in formulating and monitoring the SNAP and other related policies and issuances.
- 4.6.3.2. For this purpose, all members of the Task Force shall establish a line of communication with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and furnish the latter with nominated TWG members, relevant information, documents, and other relevant materials, as may be deemed necessary in achieving the objectives of the Task Force.

4.7. **Secretariat.** Pursuant to Section 2 of Executive Order No. 53, s. 2024, the OCD shall provide administrative and technical support to the Task Force. This includes the following:

- 4.7.1. Preparation and sending of Notice of Meeting to the members of the Task Force El Niño and other attendees as may be required, including attendance confirmation;
- 4.7.2. Preparation of logistical requirements such as venue, teleconference link if necessary, communication equipment, and other supplies as may be required;

- 4.7.3. Preparation and dissemination of the Highlights of the Meeting and Summary of Agreements including all presentations and other reference materials.
 - 4.7.4. Serve as the Records Keeper of all documents (e.g., Highlights of the Meeting, Summary of Agreements, reference materials, etc.), thus submission of post activity documentation shall be submitted to OCD by the assigned/designated Agency;
 - 4.7.5. Assist in the formulation of the Strategic National Action Plan;
 - 4.7.6. Consolidation of plans or other related documents that may be required by the Task Force El Niño;
 - 4.7.7. Perform other tasks as may be required by the Task Force El Niño.
- 4.8. Further, the Task Force El Niño may call upon all other government entities and organizations to extend support as may be necessary, pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order No. 53, s. 2024.
- 4.9. **Task Force El Niño Meetings** shall convene at least once a month or as may be directed by competent authorities that may be conducted through face-to-face sessions, blended formats, or full video teleconferencing, as deemed appropriate. The Technical Working Group may also convene as often as necessary, as need arises.
- 4.10. **Operations at the Regional & Local Levels-** In lieu of the preceding NDRRMC Memorandum Circular No. 5, wherein RDRRMCs and LGUs were afforded the option to adopt the defunct El Niño Team structure, the implementation of interventions at regional and local levels shall adhere to the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) System, anchored to the four (4) thematic areas (Disaster Prevention/Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery). Accordingly, Regional and Local DRRM Councils are tasked with delivering interventions to mitigate the impacts of El Niño in their respective jurisdictions in accordance with the established DRRM mechanisms and systems while focusing on the (5) key sectors.

5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE


If any section or part of this memorandum is held invalid, other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

6. REPEALING AND AMENDING CLAUSE

All other issuances or any provision of any NDRRMC memorandum which may be inconsistent or contrary herewith is hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

7. EFFECTIVITY

This NDRRMC Memorandum Circular shall be effective immediately.


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