REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

NDRRMC UPDATE

Taal, Mayon, and Kanlaon Volcano Bulletin

Releasing Officer:

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I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

A. ALERT STATUS OF TAAL VOLCANO

Activity in the Main Crater in the past 24 hours has been characterized by **weak emission of steam-laden plumes rising 100 meters high before drifting southwest**. The Taal Volcano Network recorded **nine (9) volcanic earthquakes** that are associated with rock fracturing processes beneath and around the edifice.

Alert Level 1 is maintained over Taal Volcano. DOST-PHIVOLCS reminds the public that at Alert Level 1, sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can occur and threaten areas within the Taal Volcano Island (TVI). DOST-PHIVOLCS strongly recommends that entry into TVI, Taal's Permanent Danger Zone or PDZ, especially the vicinities of the Main Crater and the Daang Kastila fissure, must remain strictly prohibited. Local government units are advised to continuously assess previously evacuated barangays around Taal Lake for damages and road accessibilities and to strengthen preparedness, contingency and communication measures in case of renewed unrest. People are also advised to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, possible ashfall and minor earthquakes. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and wind-remobilized ash may pose hazards to aircrafts. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Taal Volcano's activity and any new significant development will be immediately communicated to all stakeholders.

B. ALERT STATUS OF MAYON VOLCANO

Mayon Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded **one (1) volcanic earthquake** during the 24-hour observation period. Moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that crept downslope before drifting northeast to north, north-northwest, northwest and west-northwest was observed. Faint crater glow from the summit could be observed at night. Sulfur dioxide (SO2) emission was measured at an average of 274 tonnes/day on 18 March 2020. Recent electronic tilt data showed inflation of the middle to upper portions of the volcanic edifice that began in the last quarter of 2019. This follows an inflationary trend that began in February 2019 as recorded by continuous GPS monitoring.

DOST-PHIVOLCS reiterates that Alert Level 2 currently prevails over Mayon because the volcano is at a moderate level of unrest. It is therefore strongly recommended that entry into the six kilometer-radius Permanent Danger Zone or PDZ and a precautionary seven kilometer-radius Extended Danger Zone or EDZ in the south-southwest to east-northeast sector, stretching from Anoling, Camalig to Sta. Misericordia, Sto. Domingo should be strictly prohibited. The public is reminded that sudden explosions, lava collapse, pyroclastic density currents or PDCs and ashfall can occur without warning and threaten areas in the upper to middle slopes of Mayon. People residing close to these danger areas are also advised to observe precautions against rockfalls, PDCs, and ashfall. Active stream/river channels and those identified as perennially lahar-prone areas on all sectors of the volcano should also be avoided especially during extreme weather conditions when there is heavy and prolonged rainfall. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and PDCs may pose hazards to aircraft.

DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Mayon Volcano's condition and any new development will be relayed to all concerned.

C. ALERT STATUS OF KANLAON VOLCANO

Kanlaon Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded **two (2) volcanic earthquakes** during the 24-hour observation period. Sulfur dioxide (SO2) emission was measured at an average of 67 tonnes/day on 19 March 2020. Ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements indicate a period of long-term slow inflation of the edifice since 2017, while short-term electronic tilt monitoring on the southeastern flanks recorded slow inflation of the lower slopes since May 2019 and pronounced inflation of the upper slopes at the end of January 2020. These parameters indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring deep beneath the edifice.

Alert Level 1 (abnormal) status prevails over Kanlaon Volcano, which means that it is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest. The local government units and the public are strongly reminded that entry into the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) must be strictly prohibited due to the further possibilities of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions. Civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as ejecta from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Kanlaon Volcano's activity and any new development will be relayed to all concerned.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN

1. NDRRM Operations Center prepared NDRRMC Advisory and Update, and disseminated the same to **OCD Regional Centers CALABARZON, V and VI** through NDRRMC website in order to closely monitor the situation and take appropriate actions for any new development.
2. Concerned NDRRMC member-agencies were provided with a copy of the Memorandum for the SND.