



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**

### **Update on Alert Status and Activity of Taal Volcano**

**Releasing Officer:**

  
**UNDERSECRETARY RICARDO B JALAD**  
Executive Director, NDRRMC and  
Administrator, OCD

**DATE : 15 January 2020, 5:00 PM**

*Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS 15 January 2020, 5:00 PM*

#### **I. SITUATION OVERVIEW**

##### **A. ALERT STATUS OF TAAL VOLCANO**

Taal Volcano's eruption has been characterized by continuous magmatic and hydrovolcanic activity. Lava fountains generated 700-meter tall gray steam-laden plumes that drifted to the general southwest.

In addition to the previously identified fissures in Lemery (Sinisian, Mahabang Dahilig, Dayapan, Palanas, Sangalang, Poblacion, Mataas na Bayan), Agoncillo (Pansipit, Bilibinwang), Talisay (Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3, Poblacion 5) and San Nicolas (Poblacion), new fissures were observed in Sambal Ibaba, Lemery. Drying up of portions of Pansipit River has also been observed. Furthermore, newly acquired satellite images would show that the Main Crater Lake (MCL) has been drained and new vent craters have been formed inside the Main Crater and on the north flank of the volcano.

The Philippine Seismic Network plotted a total of **five hundred twenty (520) volcanic earthquakes** since 1:00 PM, January 12, 2020. **One hundred sixty-nine (169)** of these were felt with intensities ranging from Intensity I – V. Since 5:00 AM to 4:00 PM today, there were **fifty-three (53) volcanic earthquakes plotted** and twelve (12) of which were felt with intensities ranging from Intensity I – III. Such intense seismic activity probably signifies continuous magmatic intrusion beneath the Taal edifice, which may lead to further eruptive activity.

Alert Level 4 still remains in effect over Taal Volcano. This means that hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days. DOST-PHIVOLCS strongly reiterates total evacuation of Taal Volcano Island and areas at high risk to pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami within a 14-kilometer radius from Taal Main Crater. Areas in the general north of Taal Volcano are advised to guard against the effects of heavy and prolonged ashfall. Civil aviation authorities must advise aircraft to avoid the airspace around Taal Volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from the eruption column pose hazards to aircraft. DOST-PHIVOLCS is continually monitoring the eruption and will update all stakeholders of further developments.

## **II. ACTIONS TAKEN**

1. NDRRM Operations Center prepared NDRRMC Advisory and Update, and disseminated the same to OCD Regional Centers IV-A 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.
  3. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring the activities of Mayon, Taal, and Bulusan Volcanoes and any new development will be relayed to all concerned.
-