



AUG 24 2012

**NDRRMC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
No. 14 s-2012

**TO :** Chairpersons and Members, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC); Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMCs); Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MM DRRMC); Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (ARMM DRRMC); and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs);

**Other Concerned Offices/Agencies**

**Private Establishments or Institutions**

**SUBJECT: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF BAKAS PARANGAL**

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), through its Chairperson, is empowered to call on other instrumentalities and entities of government, non-government and civic organizations to assist in the protection and preservation of lives and properties in the whole range of disaster risk reduction and management, including relief and rescue operations during disasters or calamities (R.A. 10121, Sec. 7). To recognize those who exhibited exemplary and extraordinary acts of bravery and heroism during calamities, the NDRRMC hereby adopts and institutionalizes the grant of awards to groups or individuals for their outstanding display of valour and selflessness amidst the great peril brought by the disaster event. This NDRRMC Award shall henceforth be called "BAKAS PARANGAL".

**PURPOSE**

**BaKas Parangal** is a Recognition of Merit and Token of Thanksgiving bestowed by the NDRRMC to individuals or groups who exerted exemplary and extraordinary acts of selflessness in reaching out to those who are in urgent need of assistance in times of calamities and disasters.

It is also a reminder to the honouree and to others that their efforts were not done in vain, that we, the Filipino people, recognize what they have done and that they not only saved lives, but also changed lives. Their very act of altruism is an inspiration not only to the people they saved but also to others, proving that heroes do exist today in our homeland.

## DEFINITION AND ETYMOLOGY

The word “**BaKas**” has a two-fold meaning; first, it is an acronym for the words “**BA**yaning **LiKAS**”. “**Bayani**” means a Hero. “**Bayan**” connotes people, town, or community. “**Likas**” is defined as inherent, as in “innate to a person or community”. “**Bakas**” is also attributed to its literal meaning which is an “imprint” or remarkable impression that an individual leaves to those whom they have saved, rescued or extended help and urgent assistance during calamities and disasters.

## TIMELINE

BaKas Parangal shall be given by the NDRRMC to eligible honouree/s who manifest exemplary and extraordinary acts of bravery and heroism after every calamity and disaster.

## CATEGORIES

BaKas Parangal is given in three (3) categories for both individuals and organization: ***Parangal ng Kadakilaan, Parangal ng Kabayanihan, and Parangal ng Kagitingan***

1. **Category I - BaKas Parangal ng Kadakilaan.** This award is bestowed to honor the noble service of units or groups and organizations who participated in the rescue efforts despite the obvious hardships of the situation. **The honouree group will be given a Plaque of Recognition acknowledging its participation and noble deed during the calamity.**
2. **Category II - BaKas Parangal ng Kabayanihan.** This award is granted to the leader of a unit/group that exhibited exemplary acts of heroism beyond their call of duty, upholding the core values of their responsibility to reach out to those in times of disasters. **The honouree will be bestowed with a Plaque of Recognition for the leader of the unit/group accompanied by a certificate of recognition for the members of the unit/group**
3. **Category III - BaKas Parangal ng Kagitingan.** This award is given to individuals who exhibited extraordinary acts of bravery by extending assistance to those in need in times of disaster beyond the call of duty with a full understanding that such a volition has dire consequences to their person or ultimately their life. **The honouree/s will be bestowed with the Bronze "Medalyon ng Kagitingan" accompanied by a certificate of recognition.**

## BASIC QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

- Any individual or group/organization is eligible to the award provided that the nomination will include testaments to their acts of bravery and heroism during calamities and disasters.
- The candidate/s should be bonafide participant/s in the search, rescue and relief operation in response to a calamity or disaster.
- If the candidates are government officials, a recommendation should be made by the immediate superior and Head of the government agency, narrating such exemplary or extraordinary act performed in search, rescue or relief operations. If the candidate/s are non-government officials, the recommendation should then be made by any Local Government Official including Barangay Official. The recommendation should be filed at the NDRRMC not later than six (6) months after the occurrence of a disaster or calamity.

- Any identification issued by a government institution which states the candidate's full name, address, and date of birth.
- Investigation should be conducted by an OCD official on the following: (1) candidate's personal background; and (2) details narrated on the candidate's recommendation.

## ARBITRATION

An Assessment/Review Panel composed of representatives from the DND, OCD and church-based organizations shall be created to assess and review the information submitted and therefore have the authority to deny or approve the candidate's merit for the granting of the award. The Department of National Defense will issue the corresponding Department Order for the creation of the Disaster Awards Committee.

## INSIGNIA (TAB A)

Rescuers go through tremendous lengths to save lives. As in the case of flooding, they often have to go through darkness, intense rain, and mud with limited resources just to reach those who are in need. It was thus conceived that **footprints on mud** would best symbolize the extreme hardship rescuers have to endure, putting their very lives on the line and going barefoot if they have to, just to save a stranger's life. The rope, which surrounds the circumference of the medal, represents the many uses of rope in rescue and response operations. The footprints are shown as pointing downwards (or outgoing), signifying that it is the footprints that belong to the awardees.

Furthermore, the footprints symbolize how the heroic occurrence left an "imprint" on the lives of those who were rescued, a lasting mark which says there are those in this world who are willing to risk life and limb to save the lives of others.

## APPURTENANCES

An appurtenance is a device added or attached to the basic decoration to distinguish each deed and succeeding deeds of achievements falling under the same category of the decoration. Instead of awarding the same decoration and service medal, an appurtenance is substituted for the medal.

For the **BAKAS PARANGAL** of the NDRRMC, in both categories of medals for ***Kabayanihan*** (exemplary) and ***Kagitingan*** (extraordinary), the **Service Star** appurtenance is substituted for the medal. The Service Star appurtenance is further categorized into Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Specifically, said appurtenance is affixed to the decorations and service medals according to the frequency in earning the same decorations and service medals, done in the following manner:

- (1) **Bronze Star** – Shall be awarded and affixed on the medal for each succeeding response mission and/or major disaster operations.



- (2) **Silver Star** – Instead of the fifth Bronze Star, this shall be affixed on the medal for every fifth succeeding response mission and/or major disaster operations.
- (3) **Gold Star** – Shall be awarded in place of the fifth Silver Star.
- (4) **Platinum Star** – Shall be awarded in place of the fifth Gold Star.
- (5) **Diamond Star** – Shall be awarded in place of the fifth Platinum Star.

Nominating agencies and organizations of the honourees are enjoined to ensure upholding their morale and welfare that may include any entitlement/s as provided by law that are equivalent to the decorations and service medals bestowed by the NDRRMC.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

For information, guidance, and widest dissemination.

  
**VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN**  
Secretary, DND and  
Chairperson, NDRRMC

