



MEMORANDUM
No. 272, s. 2024

OCT 21 2024

TO : ALL MEMBER-AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCILS (DRRMCs) AND MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE EL NIÑO (TFEN)

SUBJECT : DEACTIVATION OF THE TASK FORCE EL NIÑO AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CENTRAL PLATFORM FOR EARLY WARNING, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

In response to the recent developments regarding the El Niño phenomenon, Executive Order No. 53 was initially issued to reactivate and reconstitute the Task Force El Niño (TFEN). However, the latest update from Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) confirms that the El Niño phenomenon has concluded, and El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral conditions now prevail over the tropical Pacific. Additionally, there is an approximate 69% likelihood of transitioning from ENSO-neutral to La Niña conditions by the July-August-September 2024 season.

Following this development, the deliberation and agreement during the 7th Task Force El Niño Meeting are as follows:

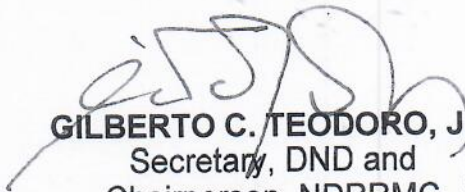
1. Deactivation of the TFEN with immediate effect and continue to address the La Niña phenomenon as part of the broader weather systems covered by existing disaster preparedness and response protocols through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) mechanism. This directive aligns with the approach adopted at regional and local levels, as outlined in NDRRMC Memorandum Circular No. 4, s. 2024, ensuring that interventions remain context-specific, tailored to the distinct needs and vulnerabilities of various areas, and effectively coordinated to avoid redundancy and optimize resource use.
2. The DOST is directed to take lead in the development and integration of existing platforms such as HazardHunter PH and the El Niño Southern Oscillation Platform (ENOP) into a unified platform for early warning, disaster preparedness, and response. Relevant agencies, including PAGASA, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Presidential Communications Office (PCO), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and Office of Civil Defense (OCD), are encouraged to collaborate closely with DOST to ensure the platform's effectiveness.

In light of recent developments and the agreements previously outlined, the 7th TFEN Meeting shall serve as the final convening of the Task Force, unless further convening is deemed necessary. Accordingly, all members of the National and Regional DRRMCs are hereby directed to undertake the requisite preparations for La Niña phenomenon, execute preparedness and response plans, and prioritize public safety. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. Heighten monitoring of warnings and advisories issued by DOST-PAGASA, DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), and other relevant surveillance agencies. Ensure the accuracy of situational awareness by cross-validating these updates with real-time data from Doppler radar, satellite imagery, and other scientific monitoring tools.
2. Commence Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) and Weather Update sessions at the regional level as deemed necessary. Coordinate with the DILG to instruct Local (DRRMCs) to conduct local PDRA and Weather Update sessions. Prepare accordingly based on Operation LISTO.
3. Intensify efforts to disseminate critical weather information to all stakeholders at the regional level, particularly targeting vulnerable communities. Utilize all available platforms to ensure that warnings are communicated effectively. Employ clear and accessible language to emphasize the urgency of the information. Collaborate with local leaders, media, and trusted community figures to enhance the reach of the message, ensuring that even hard-to-reach or vulnerable groups understand the risks and necessary actions.
4. Consistently use DOST-PAGASA as the primary authoritative source of official weather updates to prevent misinformation. If necessary, collaborate with regional counterparts and Local Government Units (LGUs) to conduct community-wide awareness campaigns. Integrate risk communication strategies to inform the public about potential hazards and preparedness measures. Tailor communications to ensure that vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, receive targeted and accessible information through trusted and familiar channels.
5. Work closely with local authorities to ensure the timely distribution of warnings and updates, with a focus on high-risk areas. Advise local government units to regularly update and test evacuation plans, ensuring that evacuation routes and shelters are clearly identified and accessible. Provide the public with clear instructions on evacuation procedures, including adhering to official warnings and advisories.

Further, all member agencies of the National and Regional DRRMCs are hereby requested to promptly and effectively implement these directives to ensure public safety and resilience in response to evolving weather conditions.

For guidance and strict compliance.


GILBERTO C. TEODORO, JR.
Secretary, DND and
Chairperson, NDRRMC

