



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VII, Central Visayas
DIVISION OF BOHOL
City of Tagbilaran



December 5, 2011

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 334 s. 2011

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEASURES FOR SCHOOLS

To: *Education Program Supervisors/Division Coordinators
Schools District Supervisors/Coordinating Principals
Elementary and Secondary Schools Heads
All Others Concerned*

1. Per DepED Order No. 83, s. 2001 and Regional Memo No. 751, s. 2001, the **disaster reduction** must aim in addressing underlying drivers of disaster risk such as the following: (i) **poorly built school structures**; (ii) **little knowledge of teachers about risks and skills in risks reduction**; (iii) **low capacity of teachers and administrators in disaster preparedness and response**; and (iv) **lack of warning mechanisms and absence of risk assessments**.
2. Specifically in the schools, where damages of disasters are most evident and where **effects to children's education** are strongly felt, actions had to be taken to mitigate the effects of disasters.
3. The school personnel should be able to anticipate risks of natural and man-made hazards and to ensure the safety of schools before, during and after an emergency to enable learners' **continued access to education**.
4. In view of this, schools are directed to implement the following mitigation measures for natural disasters such as typhoons, flooding, landslides, tornadoes among others:
 - a. ensure that the school building can withstand heavy rain and strong winds. Single level schools built at ground level may be anchored by guy wires to strengthen the stability of the structure;
 - b. store textbooks, teaching materials, school records and school equipment (fax machine, laptop, photocopier, TV, VCR and science equipment, etc.) at a safe place, preferably on an elevated room to ensure protection from rain or flood;
 - c. learn about typhoon and other weather disturbances, their signs and warnings, effects and dangers and how to protect the schoolchildren, records and school properties;
 - d. educate school children on preparedness for tropical cyclones;
 - e. regularly conduct school disaster response drills or simulations; and
 - f. observe strictly the DepED policies on the suspension of classes or invoke school-based decisions in coordination with the local government units (LGUs).
5. Moreover, schools are encouraged to involve the students, their families and their communities in preparing for disasters, for this is an effective method of raising their awareness about risk reduction.
6. This Office will monitor and provide technical support to the schools in implementing their disaster mitigating activities.
7. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is directed.


LORNA E. RANCES, Ph.D., CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

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12/5/2011