

# Philippines



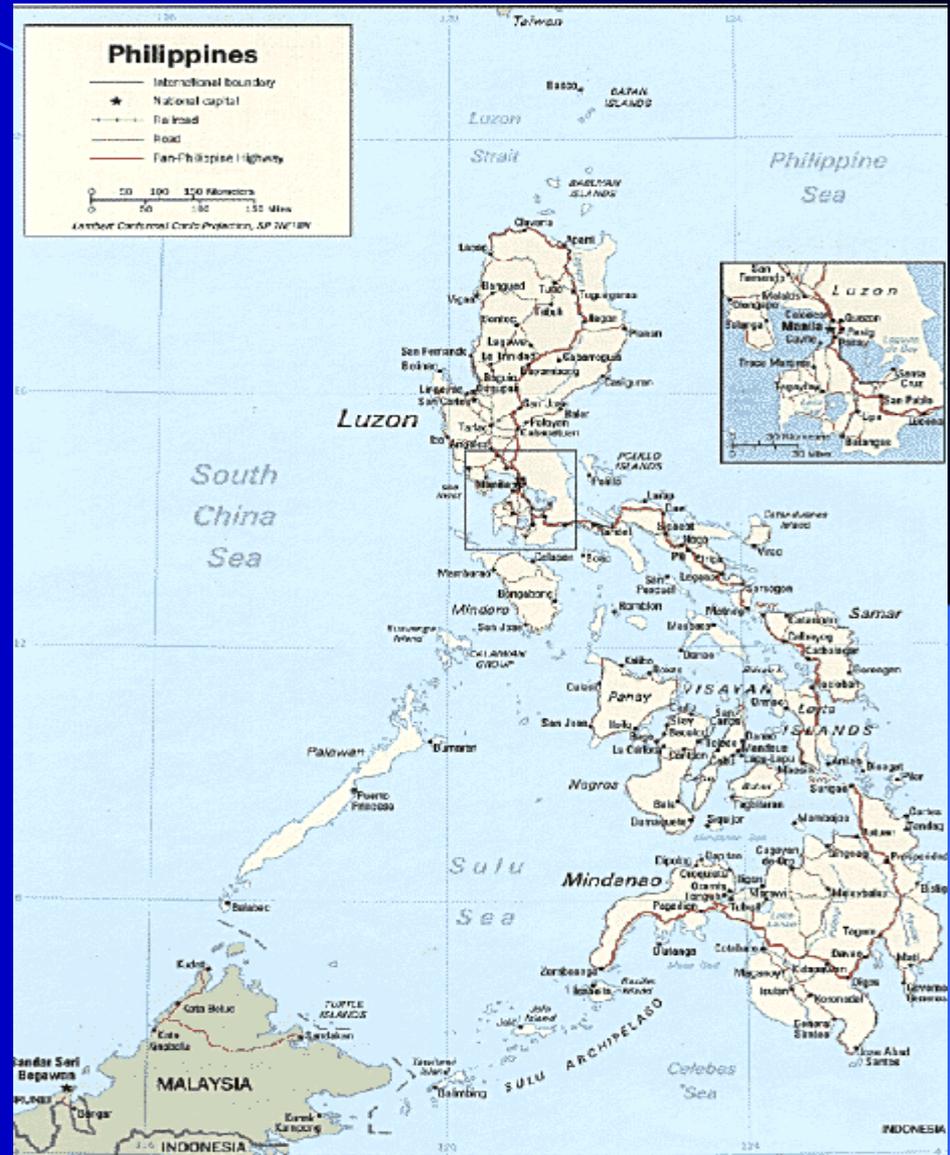
**JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**

Deputy Commissioner  
National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

An archipelago of over 7,000 islands that sits on the “pacific rim of fire” and is described as Asia’s “typhoon mat” as the seas around it spawn destructive typhoons and monsoon.

It has a population of approximately 80 million.

The Philippines has about 6.6 million installed telephone lines, about 50% of which are subscribed. And there are about 35 million mobile telephone subscribers.





# **DISASTER THREATS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

# SEVERE WEATHER



**An average of 20 tropical cyclones hit the Philippines every year, each one categorized according to its strength or intensity.**

**Once a weather disturbance enters the Philippines' area of responsibility, the government, through its various agencies forewarns the general public.**

**A Public Storm Signal warning tells the people what they should expect and carries with it an advisory for them to take the necessary precautions.**

## **PUBLIC STORM SIGNAL NO. 1:**

- A tropical cyclone will affect the locality.
- winds of 30-60 kph may be expected in at least 36 hours.
- very light or no damage at all may be sustained by the exposed community.
- Classes suspended in the elementary level.

## **PUBLIC STORM SIGNAL NO. 2:**

- A moderate tropical cyclone will affect the locality.
- winds of greater than 60 kph to 100 may be expected in at least 24 hours.
- Large nipa and cogon houses maybe partially or totally unroofed.
- Classes suspended at the high school level.

## **PUBLIC STORM SIGNAL NO. 3:**

- **A strong tropical cyclone will affect the locality.**
- **Winds of greater than 100 kph to 185 kph may be expected in at least 18 hours.**
- **There maybe widespread disruption of electrical power and communication services.**
- **In general, moderate to heavy damage may be expected in both the agricultural and industrial sectors.**
- **Sea and coastal waters will be dangerous to all sea crafts.**
- **Classes suspended at the all levels.**

## **PUBLIC STORM SIGNAL NO.4:**

- **A very intense typhoon will affect the locality**
- **Very strong winds of more than 185 kph may be expected in at least 12 hours.**
- **Electric power distribution and communication service may be disrupted.**
- **Damage to affected communities can be very heavy.**

# **FLOODING**

**As a result of heavy rains, flooding occurs, some of which are severe. Again, the government, through its various agencies issue warnings to the general public.**

# **PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:**

## **BEFORE THE FLOOD**

- **Find out the frequency of occurrence of floods in your locality.**
- **All family members must know the flood warning system in your community.**
- **Keep informed of daily weather condition.**
- **Inquire on designated evacuation areas for families and livestock.**
- **Keep a stock of food which requires little cooking and refrigeration; electric power may be interrupted.**
- **Keep a transistor radio, flashlight with spare batteries, emergency cooking equipment, candles, matches and first aid kit handy in case of emergency.**

## **DURING THE FLOOD**

- **Avoids areas subject to sudden flooding.**
- **Do not attempt to cross rivers or flowing streams where water is above the knee.**
- **Beware of water-covered roads and bridges.**
- **Do not go swimming or boating in swollen rivers.**

## **AFTER THE FLOOD**

- **Re-enter dwellings with caution using flashlights, not lanterns or torches. There may be flammable materials inside.**
- **Be alert of fire hazards like broken wires.**
- **Do not eat food or drink water until they have been checked for floodwater contamination.**

# 'Reming' slams Luzon; no classes in Metro

By Norman Bordadora  
and Inquirer Southern Luzon

TROPICAL STORM "REMING" (INTERNATIONAL code name: Durian) yesterday became a "supertyphoon" as it approached the eastern part of Luzon with winds stronger than those of Typhoon "Milenyo," which slammed into Metro Manila and Luzon in late September.

Milenyo left 230 people dead or missing and cut off power to several provinces for weeks.

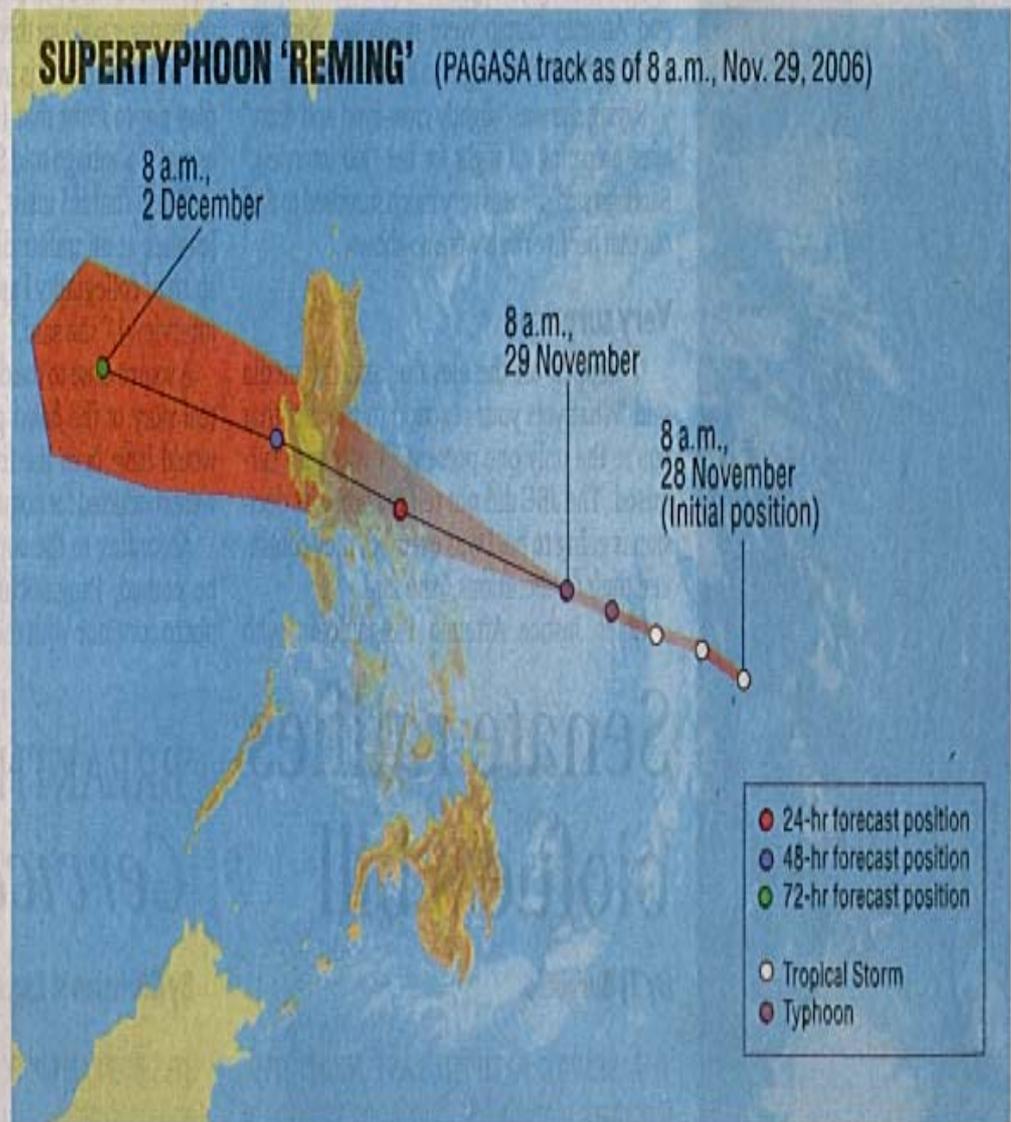
Weather officials said Reming was capable of uprooting trees and blowing away houses made of light materials.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the su-

pertyphoon was spotted 270 kilometers east-southeast of Virac, packing sustained winds of 190 km per hour and gusts of up to 225 kph.

It is expected to make landfall in Catanduanes this morning and un-

SUPERTYPHOON/ A10



**Reming was here.** Children in Catanduanes look up from what's left of their home, which was destroyed with about 70,000 others in Bicol. AP





### **Devastation**

A child walks towards a temporary shelter in island province of Catanduanes in this photo taken yesterday after her house was damaged by super typhoon Reming which ravaged the Bicol region on Thursday. Rescuers said the death toll could pass 1,000 as President Gloria Arroyo declared a state of national calamity (*Story on S1/12*).

AFP





**Typhoon aftermath.** A resident of Legazpi City crosses a river with potable water as a house remains tilted by the riverbank. Hopes vanished for finding survivors of typhoon-triggered mudslides that engulfed entire villages in Albay near the slopes of Mayon Volcano. AP



# Hopes of finding survivors dim

## Typhoon rescue under way with deaths almost 500

### Albay, Bicol towns hardest hit by 'Reming'

More rescuers rushed yesterday to an eastern Philippine province devastated by mudslides triggered by a powerful typhoon that killed almost 500 people, despite waning hopes of recovering more survivors.

Most of the dead were killed in the mudslides that buried at least eight villages at the foot of Mayon Volcano in Albay province, 330 kilometers south-east of Manila, according to Philippine National Red Cross and relief officials.

Dozens of bodies were lain in front of the town hall in Daraga, one of the villages buried by a wall of volcanic debris and boulders, as grieving relatives wailed while hoping to see whatever remained of their missing kin.

Apolinario Mabini, 35, a resident of Daraga, sat in quiet disbelief in front of the town hall. He lost his eight-year-old daughter when the mudslides came last Thursday at the height of super-typhoon "Reming," whose international code-name is "Durian."

"I was not able to hold on to her



### ★ ★ ★ First Sunday of Advent prepares faithful for Xmas

By CHRISTINA I. HERMOSO  
& LESLIE ANN G. AQUINO

The Catholic Church celebrates today the First Sunday of Advent, the season of anticipation and hope and the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, coinciding with the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, one of the greatest Christian missionaries.

Catholics will observe the First Sunday of Advent (from the Latin word "adventus," meaning coming or arrival) which marks the start of the liturgical year.

Considered as a "Season of Anticipation and Hope," the faithful begin its preparation for the celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ.

The clergy will wear purple vestments, while Church services will include an advent wreath with its symbolic four candles (3 purple and 1 pink) arranged in a circle of evergreen to symbolize eternal life.

Meanwhile, masses, novenas, religious processions, and special offerings will be held today in honor of St. Francis, a pioneering Christian missionary and co-founder of the Society of Jesus and

BEIJING—A CHINESE airline has calculated that it takes a liter of fuel to flush the toilet at 30,000 feet and is urging passengers to go to the bathroom before they board.

FASTEN / A6

# INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

pummeled Albay over and winds gusting up spawned flash flood muddy volcanic ash crashing down on scene of destruction over the region. Of counting the dead.



# LANDSLIDES

Because of massive deforestation and/or due to the buildup of volcanic ash and debris during volcanic eruptions/activities, landslides and mudflows occur during heavy rains, wreaking havoc and much despair to the lowlands.

## Philippines Mount Mayon

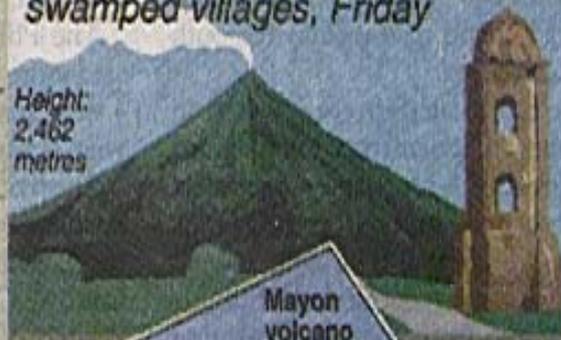
### TYPHOON DURIAN

Flooded large parts of Legaspi City, shut down airport

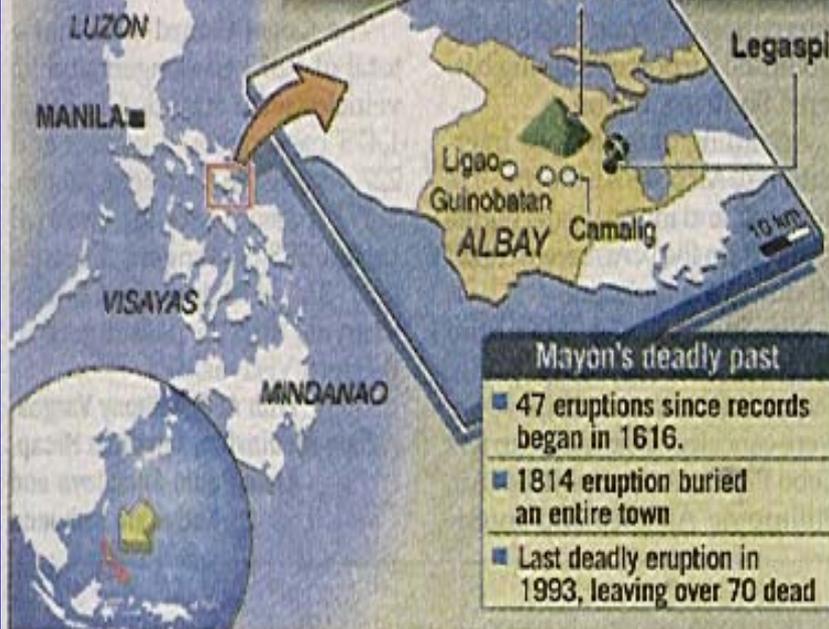
150 kph winds  
185 kph gusts,  
Friday

Fatal mudslides triggered by the volcanic mountain has swamped villages, Friday

Height:  
2,462  
metres



### PHILIPPINES



#### Mayon's deadly past

- 47 eruptions since records began in 1616.
- 1814 eruption buried an entire town
- Last deadly eruption in 1993, leaving over 70 dead

# 400 Bicolano folk dead from mudslides, floods

BY RHAYDZ BARCIA and  
MANNY UGALDE Correspondents

**LEGAZPI:** Mudslides and floods spawned by Supertyphoon Reming killed at least 400 people and displaced tens of thousands of families, the Philippine Red Cross said Friday.

All the dead are in the eastern province of Albay, according to the Red Cross spokeswoman Teresa Arguelles.

Government officials also said the estimated losses due to damage to property and crops would hit P1 billion.

The supertyphoon, packing maximum winds of 150 kilometers (93 miles) per hour, hit Albay overnight, dumping heavy rains that mixed with volcanic ash on the slopes of Mayon Volcano, 350 kilometers southeast of Manila. At least

one person was killed in the town of Canaman after being hit by a piece of metal roofing blown off by the typhoon, the civil defense office added.

Civil defense officials said 90 percent of Bicol homes were destroyed.

#### Blocked roads

President Arroyo presided over a multi-agency disaster coordination meeting in her first day as defense secretary, ordering troops to lead relief and rescue missions.

But teams were hampered by blocked roads and swollen rivers as they tried to reach many of the villages around the still active volcano.

The storm knocked out electricity, telephone lines and even water services across much of the Bicol Peninsula, which in-

See FLOODS A2





Cheska, Iya and Angel show us what funky female style is all about

exclusive five-year distribution deal with French firm



Dappled light, cool breeze are attractions of weekend getaway

website: www.inq7.net

ditches panties as she parties with new best pal Paris Hilton



## 'It was like a jumbo jet hovering over us'

By Gerald Gene R. Querubin  
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SANTA CRUZ, MARINDUQUE—"IN PITCH DARKNESS, all we heard was an intense rumbling noise as if a jumbo jet was hovering over our house. Suddenly, our whole roof was ripped apart and blown away."

This was how Edwin Tan, a resident of this typhoon-ravaged province, described yesterday

IT WAS/A15

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

*Sunday*

Sunday, December 3, 2006

★★

10 sections / Vol. 21 / No.

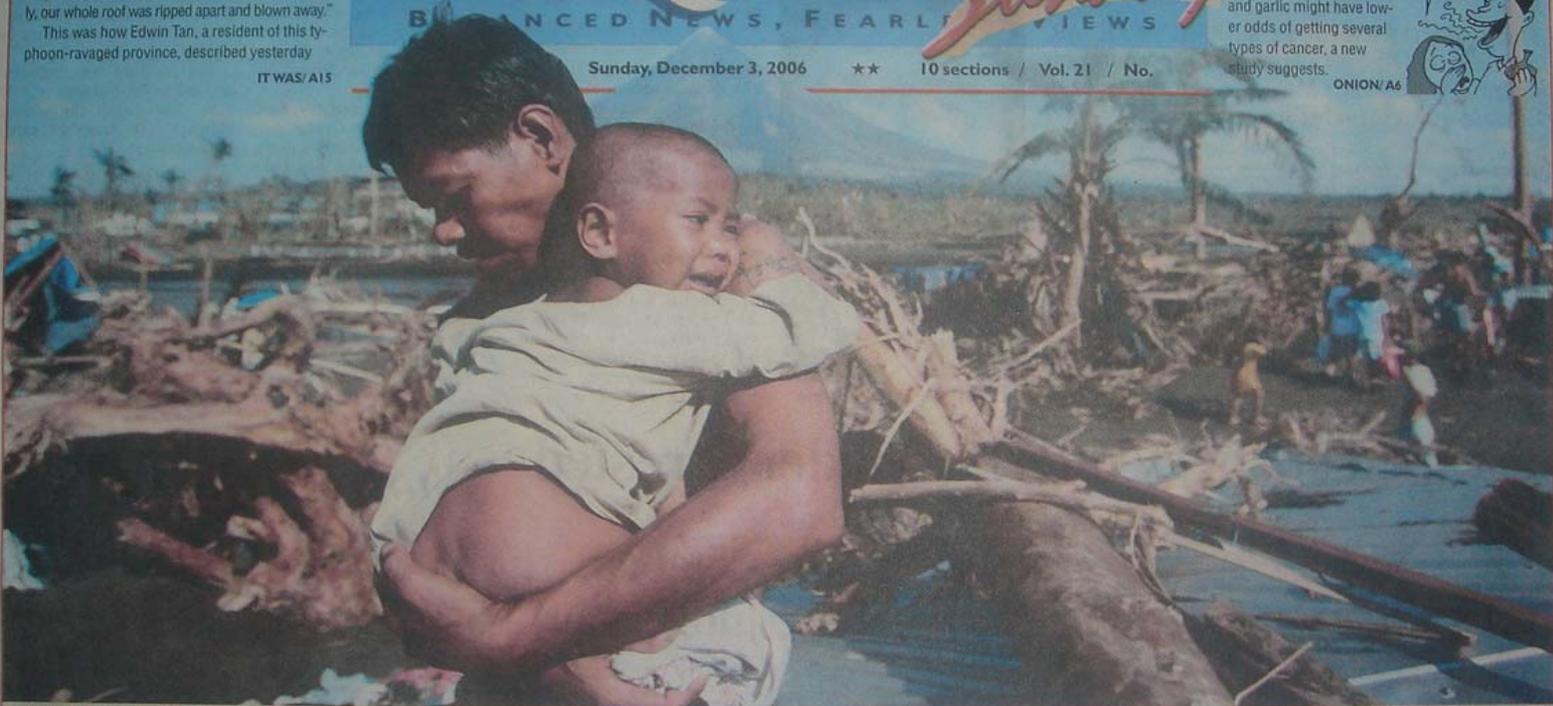
## Onion and garlic a day keep the cancer away

A BIT OF ONION AND GARLIC a day keeps the cancer away.

People who flavor their diets with plenty of onions and garlic might have lower odds of getting several types of cancer, a new study suggests.

ONION/A6

LIGTAS KA NGA SA CANCER, PERO TEPOK KAMI SA BAD BREATH! NO!



EDWIN BACOROS

FATHER AND CHILD. Pedro Malate and son Miguel survey the ruins and desolation left behind by Supertyphoon "Reming" in the village of Tagas, in Daraga, Albay, on Saturday as Mt. Mayon looms in the background.

# Up to 700 feared dead

2006 12 8

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mayon's deadly rampage puzzles local folk, execs

# SUNDAY the philippine chronicle

VOLUME 1 - NUMBER 51  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2006

THE PHILIPPINE CHRONICLE is published daily  
by The Philippine Chronicle Media Corp.  
16 pages, 2 sections.

Php 15.00

IN THE SERVICE OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM



2006 12 03

# TSUNAMIS

Is a series of traveling ocean waves of long length and period usually caused by a seismic disturbances in the ocean floor or confines, which upon reaching the shore, losses speed but increases in height. Depending upon the residual force upon arrival, such waves may rush in shore and cause devastation to human settlements and infrastructures along the shoreline.

On August 16, 1976, the Moro Gulf earthquake produced tsunamis which devastated the southwest coast on Mindanao and left more than 3,000 people dead, with at least 1,000 people missing. More than 8,000 people were injured and approximately 12,000 families were rendered homeless by 5 meter(s) high waves.



**NATIONAL AUTHORITIES  
INVOLVED IN DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT**

# **THE NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL (NDCC)**

**The highest government body responsible for advising the President of the status of disaster preparedness programs and disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts at the national level.**

## **NDCC FUNCTIONS:**

**At the National level, the NDCC serves as the President's adviser on disaster preparedness programs, disaster operations and rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the government and the private sector. It acts as the top coordinator of all disaster management and the highest allocator of resources in the country to support the efforts of the lower DCC level. In the discharge of its functions, the NDCC utilizes the facilities and services of the Office of Civil Defense as its operating arm.**

# TASK OF NDCC CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER-AGENCIES

- A. Secretary of National Defense-** Convenes the council as often as necessary and calls on all other departments/ bureaus/agencies, other instrumentalities of the government and the private sector for assistance when the need arises.
- B. Administrator, Office of Civil Defense-** Coordinates the activities, functions of the various agencies and instrumentalities of the Government, private institutions and civic organizations to implement the policies and programs of the NDCC.
- C. Secretary of Interior and Local Government-** Oversees the organization of the DCCs, the establishment of Disaster Operation Centers of all local governments, the training of DCC members and coordination with OCD, DSWD, PNRC and other appropriate agencies.
- D. Secretary of Social Welfare and Development-** Extends relief assistance and social services to the victims as necessary.
- E. Secretary of Health-** provides health services during emergencies as necessary, and organizes reaction team and hospitals, clinics and sanitary and other health institution.

- F. Director- General NEDA-** responsible for the determination and analysis of the effect of disasters and calamities on the socio-economy plans and programs of the country, and for the development of damage assessment schemes.
- G. Secretary of Labor and Employment-** provides emergency employment opportunities to disaster victims, implements the industrial civil defense programs and measures and organizes and trains Disaster Control Groups in all factories and industrial complexes.
- H. Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports-** Provides assistance in the public education and campaign regarding Disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation, makes available school buildings as evacuation centers and organizes and trains disaster control groups and the reaction teams in all schools and institutions of learning.
- I. Secretary of Trade and Industry-** Maintains normal level of prices of commodities during emergencies, and organizes disaster control groups and reaction teams in large buildings used for commercial and recreational purposes.

- J. Secretary of Agriculture-** Undertakes surveys in disaster areas to determine the extent of damage of agricultural crops, livestock and fisheries and renders technical assistance to disaster victims whose crops or livestock have been destroyed.
- K. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources-** Responsible for reforestation and control of areas which tend to cause flooding, landslides, mudflow and ground subsidence, provides seeds, seedlings and saplings and technical assistance regarding mines, forests and lands, formulates rules and regulations for the control and reaction of pollution.
- L. Secretary of Finance-** Issues rules and regulations with the relevant agencies concerned for the funding by local governments of the requirements for organizing, equipping, and training of their respective disaster coordinating councils and reaction teams.
- M. Secretary of Public Works and Highways-** Restores destroyed public structures such as flood control, waterworks, roads, bridges and other vertical and horizontal facilities/infrastructures and provides heavy and light equipment for relief, rescue operations and reaction teams.
- N. Secretary of Tourism-** Organizes and trains disaster control groups and reaction teams in hotels, pension houses, restaurants and other tourist-oriented facilities.

- O. Secretary of Transportation and Communications-** Restores destroyed communications (in coordination with the National Telecommunications Commission) and transportation facilities such as railroads and vertical structures, and organizes emergency communications and transport services from the national down to the barangay level and undertakes the restoration of destroyed communication and transportation facilities such as railroads and vertical structures in collaboration with the public utilities.
- P. Director, Philippine Information Agency-** Provides public information service through dissemination of disaster mitigation measures.
- Q. Secretary-General, Philippine National Red Cross-** Conducts disaster leadership training courses, assists in the training of DCCs at all levels and assists in providing emergency relief assistance to disaster victims.
- R. Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines-** Responsible for the provision of security in disaster areas and assistance in the reconstruction of roads, bridges and other structures and transportation facilities for rapid movement or relief supplies and personnel and for the evacuation of disaster victims.

# THE ROLES OF THE MAJOR SERVICES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- **Philippine Army**

In coordination with the department of Public Works and Highways, the Engineering Brigades of the Philippine Army provide vital support in the restoration of destroyed public works, such as flood control, waterworks, roads, bridges, power facilities and other public structures and utilities.

- **Philippine Air Force**

In coordination with the Department of Transportation and Communications Air Transportation Office, the Philippine Air Force 1. Undertakes aerial search and rescue operations, 2. Supervises immediate repair of damaged airport, runways, and facilities 3. Attends to inter- agency contingency planning and execution of plans for air crashes outside airport facilities, 4. Prepares daily outlooks in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric and Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

- **Philippine Navy**

In cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine Navy conducts and monitors rescue and emergency operations. It also assists in transporting relief goods and personnel via sea lanes.



AFF

# **THE NATIONAL CALAMITY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

## **OBJECTIVES:**

**The primary objective of this plan is to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of civil protection programs thru an integrated, multi-sectoral and community-based approach and strategies for the protection and preservation of life, property and environment.**



# **STRATEGY AND INITIATIVES TOWARDS DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

# Philippine Disaster Management Framework

## A. MITIGATION

Refers to measures/programs aimed to minimize the impact of a natural or a man-made hazard upon the nation or a small community in terms of casualties and damages. It also refers to measures designed to prevent a natural phenomenon from causing or resulting to disasters or other related emergency situations.

### MEASURES

**Insurance-** property, personal accident, fire, earthquake, etc.

**Regulations-** safety regulations, land use, zoning, the implementation of Building and fire Codes, etc.

## B. PREPAREDNESS

Refers to pre- disaster actions and measures being undertaken to avert or minimize loss of lives and properties such as, but not limited to, community organizing, training, planning, equipping, stockpiling, hazard mapping and public information and education initiatives.

- **Plan-** contingency plan, fire and earthquake plans, etc.
- **Information-** public information, rapid dissemination of information thru mass media, population awareness, etc.
- **Resources-** available response units, capabilities, equipment, manpower, location, contact nos. & persons, etc.
- **Education and training-** training of local chief executives, LGU deputized coordinators, auxiliaries, volunteers, organic personnel, etc.

## **C. RESPONSE**

Refers to any concerned effort by one or more agencies, public or private, to provide emergency assistance or relief to persons who are victims of disasters or calamities, and the restoration of essential public activities and facilities. It includes alert- receipt and rapid dissemination of warnings to threatened communities/ populations; notification – immediate notification of response units; and consequence management.

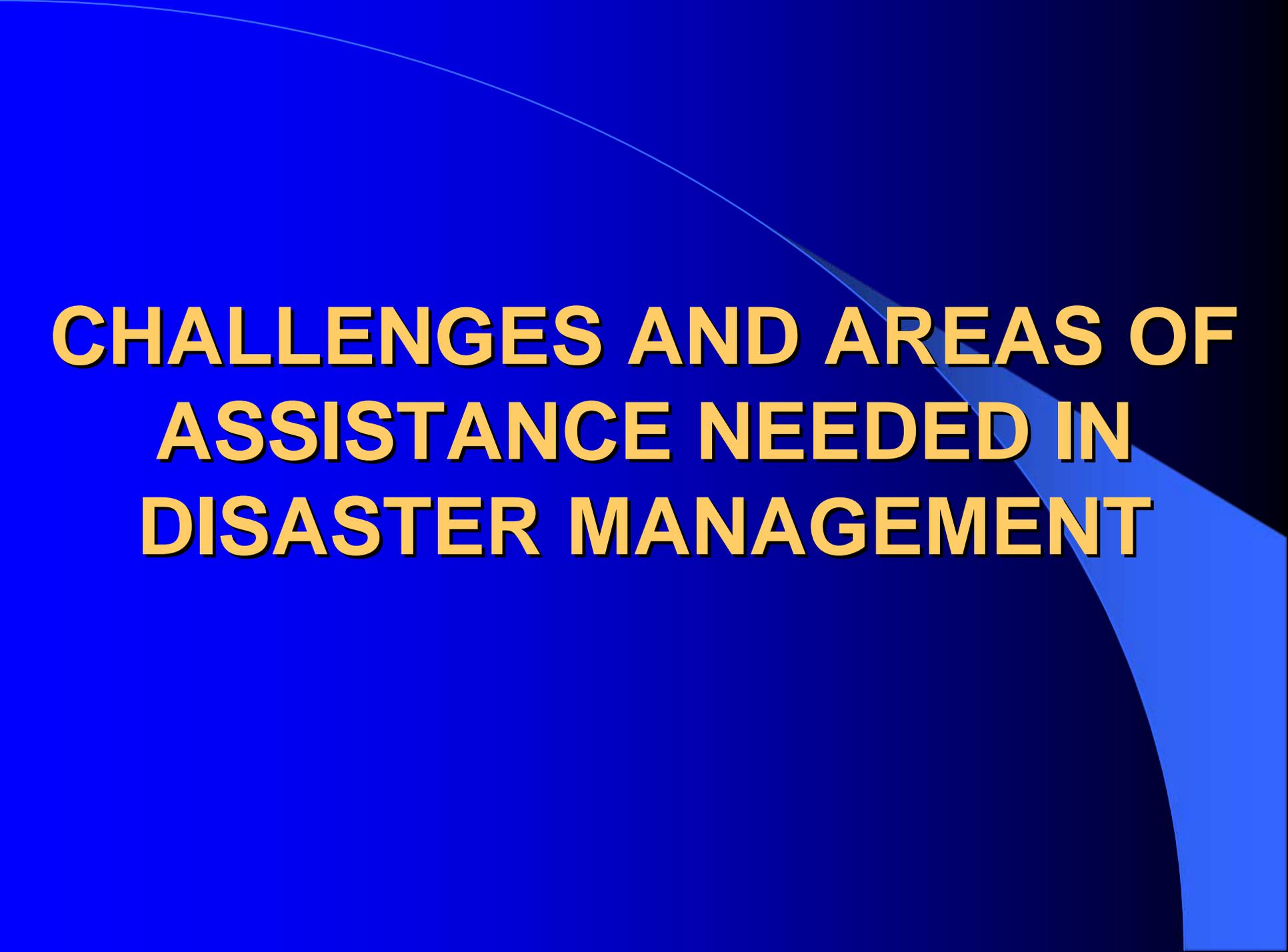
## **D. REHABILITATION**

Refers to the process by which the affected communities/areas or damaged public infrastructures are restored to their normal operational level or their actual condition prior to the occurrence of the disaster or calamity.

It also includes the release of emergency funding assistance from national and local calamity funds and various government sources.

# AREAS OF CONCERN FOR LEGISLATION

- Institutionalization of a public safety and emergency management office in all Provinces and Cities.
- Provision of calamity insurance coverage for crops, fisheries and livestock including public infrastructure.
- Land use and zoning plan for all Provinces, Cities and Municipalities. Integration of disaster mitigation and preparedness in the development plan of all Provinces, Cities and Municipalities.
- Use of local calamity fund for pre- disaster activities.



# **CHALLENGES AND AREAS OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

# AREAS OF CONCERN FOR CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

- Limited capacity of various government Search and Rescue (SAR) teams nationwide to respond to emergency situations like water SAR, aerial SAR, land-based SAR, collapsed structure SAR, urban SAR, fire SAR, etc.
- Lack of or absence of a permanent Emergency Medical Service (EMS) practitioner in the provincial, city and municipal levels.
- Inadequate equipment of EMS teams nationwide like properly- equipped ambulances with life-saving devices, emergency communications equipment that can be utilized in severely damaged areas that have been rendered without any form of communications whatsoever.

One of the challenges of civil military coordination in the Philippines is the frequent turnover of personnel in the AFP and in its AFP disaster Response Task Force and disaster coordinating contents. This poses tremendous adverse implications on effective coordination for response.

In order to address the limitations brought by frequent turnover of personnel in the AFP, it would be helpful if civilian institutions, particularly the national agencies, develop a pool of civil-military coordinators who can facilitate smooth interfacing of both civilian and military personnel during response and rehabilitation operations.



**THANK YOU**