

December 22, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DepEd closely monitors schools in Mt. Mayon area

The Department of Education regional office in Bicol is closely monitoring the restive Mayon Volcano to ensure that there are no major disruptions when classes resume after the holiday break.

Education Secretary Jesli Lopus has ordered DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office to regularly get updates from Region V on the latest condition of schools in the region.

"We have to ensure that our school children can go back to school well and safe. More importantly, we have to see to it that these children have working schools to go back to and continue their education," Lopus said.

Lopus said DepEd has constructed 12 disaster-resistant buildings in Bicol which can withstand severe weather condition. Three of these are now used as evacuation centers.

In a report transmitted by the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office as of December 22 (12pm), 14 schools in five municipalities (Camalig, Daraga, Guinobatan, Malilipot, and Sto. Domingo), are used as evacuation centers by 5,955 families (26,571 individuals) in the Division of Albay.

In Legazpi City Division, there are five schools used as evacuation centers by 2,463 families (12,745 individuals). Six schools shelter 799 families (3,936 individuals) in Tabaco City while only two schools house 333 families (2,215 individuals) in Ligao City Division.

Christmas break started last December 18. Several classes that week (14-18 December) were suspended in the affected areas and those inside the danger zone. These schools will hold makeup classes on Saturdays after the regular classes resume on January 4, 2010.

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PRESS RELEASE