

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd starts rebuilding work in typhoon-affected regions

Typhoon Basyang has damaged 76 schools -- 15 in Central Luzon, 23 in CaLaBaRZon, 2 in MiMaRoPa, 24 in the Bicol Region, 12 in NCR --- even as the Department of Education continues to evaluate the extent of destruction wrought by the typhoon.

Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC has ordered the Physical Facilities, Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) to closely monitor the condition of schools in the affected regions and start rebuilding work.

“While the typhoon left some of our school children with damaged classrooms, textbooks and computer facilities, we will do everything we can to bring everything back to normalcy as soon as possible,” said the Education chief.

In the Rapid Disaster Assessment Report (R.A.D.A.R.) submitted by DepEd Disaster Reduction Management Office - PFSED as of July 16 (12NN), total damage has reached P24.295M where P7.25M was reported in Central Luzon, P11.6M in the Bicol Region, P3.365M in CaLaBaRZon, P1M in MiMaRoPa, and P1.08M in Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, localized suspension of classes has been implemented as soon as storm signals were declared by PAG-ASA on the evening of July 12. Classes in most of the affected areas resumed yesterday (July 15) while classes in Bataan and Zambales in Region III have just resumed today (July 16).

Based on DepEd Order No. 28, series of 2005, in the absence of typhoon signal warnings from PAG-ASA, localized suspension or cancellation of classes in both public and private elementary and/or secondary schools may be implemented by local DepEd officials, in coordination with the local chief executives.

DepEd-NCR Regional Director Flordeliza Magday has suspended classes in pre-school and elementary in Metro Manila last Tuesday. On Wednesday, she ordered to cancel classes up to secondary level. Also, other regional directors, through their schools division superintendent, have cancelled classes in their respective areas.

Nine schools were used as evacuation centers (seven in Region IV-A, and two in Region V), which housed a total of 163 families.

Of the 163 families, 157 families were housed in seven schools (five in Laguna and two in Rizal) in Region IV-A. On the other hand, in the Bicol Region, Jose Panganiban National High School in Camarines Norte sheltered three families.

On the other hand, based on the latest R.A.D.A.R., Parang Elementary School, also in Camarines Norte, still houses three families.

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Luistro emphasized the importance of coordination and support among DepEd local offices in times of crisis.

As of this writing, Parang Elementary School which is being used as evacuation center has resumed classes. Evacuees are housed in non-academic rooms such as the home economics building and covered courts allowing classes to be held in classrooms. Subsistence requirements of the families are provided by their local government.

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