

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd: Region 8 schools hardest hit by “Frank”

Typhoon Frank, which cut a long swath of destruction in the provinces and in Metro Manila, hit Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) the hardest in terms of damaged school buildings, leaving in its wake some 47 destroyed schools.

According to Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, damages to school buildings in Region 8 alone could reach P66 million.

Lapus added that the department’s over-all initial estimate of damages in school buildings reached over P100 million, involving 105 schools in the typhoon-struck areas.

The other regions affected by typhoon “Frank” were Region 3 with 30 damaged schools costing P13.6 million, Region 4-A with seven schools with damages amounting to P15.6 million, Region 4-B with 10 damaged schools worth P5.2 million. Total damages in Region 6 are still being assessed with 11 schools affected.

Lapus ordered immediate rehabilitation work to lessen impact on the holding of classes. “Repair and rehabilitation works should proceed promptly so as to minimize disruption in classes,” Lapus added.

Lapus reported that some 72 other schools in the affected regions are being used as evacuation centers for some 1,246 families.

Meanwhile, DepEd Undersecretary Ramon Bacani said that classes in public elementary and secondary high schools, which were suspended yesterday due to typhoon Frank, will resume tomorrow except in areas where school buildings are being used as evacuation centers.

Bacani also announced that all schools in Panay Island divisions will remain suspended until tomorrow to make way for the repair of classrooms. These are the Division of Antique, Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, Iloilo City and Roxas City.

DepEd has set up a Calamity Information Center at its central office in Pasig City where updates and damage reports from the regions affected by typhoon “Frank” are consolidated for appropriate action.

“We have already established a system wherein school officials in the affected areas make immediate assessments of the damage which they promptly forward to the Central Office,” Lapus said.

PRESS RELEASE

In May this year, typhoon Cosme damaged some 135 schools in Pangasinan, La Union and Zambales. President Arroyo ordered the release of P210 million for rehabilitation work.

Lapus reiterated his appeal to those who have the means to help normalize the situation in the typhoon-stricken areas.

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PRESS RELEASE