

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd: “Frank” destroyed 116 school buildings

The Department of Education reported today that Typhoon Frank hit Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) the hardest in terms of affected school buildings, leaving in its wake some 116 destroyed schools with an estimated cost of damage amounting to P118 million.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the department’s current estimate of damages in school buildings nationwide reached over P291 million, involving 449 schools in typhoon- struck areas.

Aside from the National Capital Region which has 21 affected school buildings with damages placed at almost P38 million, the other region heavily affected by typhoon “Frank” was Region 6 which reported a total of 141 damaged schools with an estimated cost of some P30.3 million.

Region 4-B suffered from damages worth some P29 million arising from 56 destroyed schools while Region 4A has 30 affected schools whose estimated cost of damage amounted to P26.4 million.

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 124 schools in the affected regions are being used as evacuation centers by some 1,291 families.

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.

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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