

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 12, 2009

## DepEd moves to repair typhoon-damaged classrooms in Bicol

Typhoon Dante devastated the Bicol region causing an estimated 77 Million damage which includes classrooms needed by the students in the incoming school year.

Some 172 elementary and 36 high schools in the Divisions of Legaspi City, Ligao City, Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon and Masbate were affected.

“We need to act fast to make sure our school children have classrooms when they return to school in June,” Education Secretary Jesli Lapus stressed. “Our Quick Response Fund will allow us to do just that.”

DepEd’s Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office’s Rapid Disaster Assessment Report (RADAR) indicated that the estimated P77 Million worth of damages on classrooms include damaged roofing, broken walls, damaged doors, ceilings and walls in schools.

“An action center was immediately set-up once the typhoon set in,” said Engr. Oliver Hernandez, DepEd Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division Chief. “It is manned 24 hours and monitors the progress of the storm.”

National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said that the total estimated damage of typhoon Dante in the country is at P127 million.

DepEd’s new typhoon-resistant school buildings in Bicol were able to withstand the typhoon, according to reports.

DepEd engineers inspected the area to validate the cost of damages of the typhoon for funding of the repairs and the rehabilitations.

DepEd ensures the complete restoration of the physical facility damages brought about by the typhoon. The Brigada Eskwela that will commence on May 18, 2009 will also be contributing to the fast recovery of affected schools. Brigada Eskwela is an annual DepEd school maintenance week involving the communities in preparation for the opening of classes.

Typhoon “Dante” roved at 120 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 150. kph.

Likewise, typhoon “Emong’s” wreckage is currently being assessed.

Weather Bureau PAGASA said Typhoon "Dante" has officially left the Philippines last Wednesday.

**END**

PRESS RELEASE