



DepEd MEMORANDUM  
No. **85**, s. 2011

APR 04 2011

**ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ASSIST (ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOLBUILDINGS' STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND STABILITY)**

To: Bureau Directors  
Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. The high magnitude earthquakes such as the 5.8 magnitude in Southwestern China, the 6.3 magnitude in New Zealand and the 9.0 magnitude that hit Japan on March 11, 2011, are more than enough for the Philippine government to be alarmed and to prepare the Filipinos to respond speedily and effectively for future earthquake occurrences. Thus, the Philippine government has made a concerted effort to implement the Project on **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management**. To support the government's **disaster risk reduction and management efforts**, the Department of Education (DepEd) is reintensifying its assessment of all structures such as offices and schoolbuildings nationwide.

2. It is imperative that each school formulate preparedness and mitigating measures in order to ensure proper, timely and appropriate action to prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters. Per Unnumbered Memorandum dated March 9, 2010, the campaign on building safe schools and hazard-free learning environment for schoolchildren shall be reactivated and shall adhere strictly to the following mitigating measures:

- a. enhancing the implementation of the **assessment guidelines** of **Project ASSIST** contained in DepED Memorandum No. 231, s. 2006 entitled, *Assessment of the Schoolbuildings' Structural Integrity and Stability (ASSIST) Nationwide* and DepED Memorandum No. 256, s. 2006 entitled, *Addenda to DepED Memorandum 231, s. 2006.*
- b. conduct of structural assessment of **all existing schoolbuildings** through the assistance of **DepEd Project Engineers (DPEs)**;
- c. coordination of field offices with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and local Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for technical assistance and collaborative efforts in order to fast track assessment activities or tap technical experts available in the community such as Parents-Teachers Associations (PTAs), school alumni and other volunteers for possible assistance on the said assessment;
- d. immediate inspection and validation of reported school buildings with structural defects; and
- e. immediate submission of inspection/assessment report of all affected schools to the Regional/Division Offices of schoolbuildings found to have structural defects.



3. The regional offices shall submit **consolidated reports** for possible funding assistance on retrofitting or replacement of the subject DepEd buildings to:

The Chief  
Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED)  
Office of Planning Service (OPS)  
DepEd Central Office  
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City  
Telephone No. (02) 633-7263

3. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is directed.

  
**BR. ARMIN A. LUISTRO FSC**  
Secretary

References:

DepED Memoranda: (Nos. 231 and 256, s. 2006)  
Unnumbered Memorandum dated March 9, 2010

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

POLICY  
PROJECTS  
SAFETY EDUCATION  
SCHOOLBUILDINGS