



DepED MEMORANDUM
No. **300**, s. 2006

AUG 23 2006

CONDUCT OF QUARTERLY EARTHQUAKE DRILLS IN SCHOOLS
AND DEPED REGIONAL AND DIVISION OFFICES

To: Regional Directors
Bureau Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools
All Others Concerned

1. Partial reports from the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) on the recently concluded Simultaneous Earthquake Drill in public and private schools nationwide last June 20, 2006 stated that only 5.16% out of the more than 40,000 schools participated. Reasons for the low participation rate are attributed to the short preparation time given to schools since the drill was scheduled two weeks after enrolment, inadequate communication system, non-commitment of some DepED Officials to undertake safety measures in schools and most schools have no site development plans and evacuation route maps.
2. The earthquake drill was directed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the NDCC, DepED and PHIVOLCS just after the killer quake that killed almost four thousand (4,000) people and caused great damages to properties and infrastructure in Indonesia, aside from the fact that the Philippines is located within the "Ring of Fire" where most killer quakes occur and the presence of many earthquake generators in the archipelago like trenches and fault lines. Moreover, the earthquake drill is part of the communications campaign under the "Safe Ka Ba" project, formulated by all member agencies of the NDCC as part of the four point agenda being implemented by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). Furthermore, the simultaneous earthquake drill last June 20, 2006 which was witnessed by the President and government officials in Sta. Elena High School, Marikina City prompted the President to once again direct all public and private schools as well as **all government offices to conduct quarterly earthquake drills.**
3. Safety in schools must always be a priority concern of all school administrators as well as government officials in order to sustain government's efforts to provide safe, secured and conducive to teaching-learning environment to the schoolchildren. Historical records of killer quakes have proven that devastating earthquakes occur during day time when all our schoolchildren are in school and therefore are the most vulnerable ones to be affected.
4. In view of this, the Department issued policies on the implementation of safety measures to ensure the safety of schoolchildren in public and private schools through DepED Memorandum Nos. 219 and 249 both series of 2006. DepED Order No. 26, s. 2006 also reiterated all organized Calamity/Disaster and Fire Control Groups in DepED Regional, Division Offices and in schools to conduct training programs on disaster preparedness. Disaster management related projects like Schools Water and Electrical Facilities Assessment Project (SWEFAP) and Assessment of Schoolbuildings' Structural Integrity and Stability (ASSIST) are also being implemented by the Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED).

5. It is imperative therefore that all public and private schools shall be aware of their responsibilities to ensure safety in schools of the young children in order to reduce or prevent possible impacts of any disastrous event. As directed by the President last June 20, 2006 at Sta. Elena High School in Marikina City, all schools, public and private as well as government offices shall conduct quarterly earthquake drills in order to instill in the minds the culture of preparedness and that the schoolchildren will be able to respond properly to any disaster or emergency conditions that may strike anytime.

6. Reports of the drills conducted, safety measures initiated, and projects implemented related to disaster management shall be submitted to the Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) through fax nos.: (02) 633-7263 and (02) 638-7110. All reports shall be consolidated and submitted to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) for feedback information to the President through the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), Malacañang, Manila.

7. Wide dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is desired.



JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary

References:

DepED Memorandum Nos.: (219 and 249, s. 2006)
DepED Order No.: (26, s. 2006)

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CALAMITY
SAFETY EDUCATION
SCHOOLS