

DENR Memorandum Order
No. 96 - 03
January 23, 1996

SUBJECT : Organizing Special Task Action Groups in the DENR Central Office and Regional Offices for Disaster Control and Management.

In the interest of the public service and pursuant to the implementation of the agency's contingency plans for natural calamities and disasters, the Undersecretary for Field Operations and all Regional Executive Directors are hereby instructed to organize and form Special Task Action Groups (STAGs) in their respective offices and regions which shall be responsible for the effective implementation of the Department's National and Regional Contingency Plans to minimize if not totally avert adverse impact of natural calamities and disasters.

Membership in the Special Task Action Groups shall be drawn from the different sectoral services of the Department.

Special task action groups shall, among others, perform the following:

1. Continue to update and monitor activities related to calamity/disaster control and management.
2. Identify and assess flood-prone and landslide-prone areas within the region which maybe affected or hit during occurrence of typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storm surges and tidal waves (tsunamis).
3. Classify these disaster/calamity-prone areas according to risk levels involved as low, moderate or high, considering various factors such as (1) climate and rainfall pattern (b) topography or slope (c) existence and proximity to geologic faults (d) geologic

structures (e) proximity to active volcanoes (f) location and proximity to stream channels and open shorelines.

4. Prepare and update flood and geohazard maps and disaster control measures to cope with impending or probable calamities within the identified area.
5. Provide the different Disaster Coordinating Councils (RDCC, PDCC and MDCC) and the local government units with the map and disaster control plan for their information and reference and for coordination purposes;
6. Conduct an information, education and communication campaign on disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation in coordination with the RDCC, PDCC and MDCC.
7. Provide appropriate recommendations for actions to be taken by local government units in identified flood-prone and landslide-prone areas during heavy rainfall or typhoon.

The organized Special Task Action Groups should be provided with the necessary transport and radio communication facilities, equipment and supplies to cope with activities before, during and after calamities and disasters.

Special Task Action Groups shall also be organized at PENRO and CENRO levels to complement the central and regional groups. They shall serve as quick response teams of the Department at the central, regional, provincial and municipal levels in times of disaster/calamities and emergency situations.

The members of the Special Task Action Groups as constituted under this Order shall be entitled to hazard pay and other emoluments under the General Appropriations Act of the Philippine Government and its provisions under Item/Section entitled "Hazard Duty Pay" implemented by National Compensation Circular No. 76 dated March 31, 1995 issued by the Department of the Budget and Management in view of the dangers, risks and hazards faced during typhoons,

earthquakes, flood and other calamities and under emergency situation, subject to accounting rules and regulations.

Funding for hazard duty pay shall be provided as a regular item of expenditure under the respective budgets of each operating unit.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall continue to remain in force until revoked in writing by the undersigned or by higher authority.

VICTOR O. RAMOS
Secretary