

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Education

REGION IV-A CALABARZON
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF LUCENA CITY



16 January 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 039 , s. 2025

LA NIŃA CONDITION PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

TO:

OIC – Asst. Schools Division Superintendent Chief Education Supervisors – SGOD & CID

Unit Heads

Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads

School DRRM Coordinators

All Others Concerned

- 1. In line with the **DOST-PAGASA** Press Release dated January 6, 2025, titled **La Niña Condition is Present in the Tropical Pacific**, this Office, is advising **all schools** and **SDO personnel** to **implement preventive and response measures** to address the heightened risks of **floods**, **flash floods**, **rain-induced landslides**, and increased **tropical cyclone** activity within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).
- 2. **La Niña conditions**, characterized by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures to the equatorial Pacific, have persisted since September 2024 and are expected to continue **until March 2025**. The general public is encouraged to do the following:
 - Monitor the news and authorized government sources for weather updates, warning, and advisories;
 - check and prepare "Go Bags";
 - · and stockpile goods at home.
- 3. With this, all schools are highly encouraged to craft a La Niña Preparedness Plan to be submitted on or before February 16, 2025, to be uploaded on this link: https://bit.ly/LaNinaPreparednessPlan25.
- 4. Furthermore, a copy of DRRM IEC materials can be accessed through this link: https://bit.ly/2025-DRRM-IEC.
- 5. Please see attached **Annexes** for guidance and reference:
 - Annex 1- Understanding La Niña
 - Annex 2: Division La Niña Preparedness Plan
 - Annex 3: Preparedness Measures for La Niña
 - Annex 4: Disaster Risk Reduction Resource Manual for Schools (DepEd 2008)
 - Annex 5: Hazard Assessment Report
 - Annex 6: PAGASA La Niña Flyer
 - Annex 7: Emergency Hotlines





Address: Lucena West I ES Compound, M.L. Tagarao St. Brgy. Ilayang. Iyam, Lucena City

Contact Nos.: (042) 421-4161/421-4162/421-5137 Email Address: lucena.city@deped.gov.ph

Website: depedlucena.com

- 6. For queries, clarifications, and other related concerns, you may contact **Ms. Preciosa Marie T. Alba**, Project Development Officer II-DRRM, at *0943-573-6010*.
- 7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

SUSAN DL. ORIBIANA

Schools Division Superintendent

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For the Schools Division Superintendent

Edenia Q. Labranda

EDENIA O. LIBRANDA

Chief Education Supervisor Officer-In-Charge Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent

Date: Jan. 24, 2025

Reference: https://bagong.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/press-release/170

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Understanding La Niña

What do we need to know?

La Niña episodes represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific.

When does it happen?

The Sea Surface Temperature (unusual rise and fall) and the interaction of winds and other weather systems generate a climate pattern triggering an El Niño or a La Niña Phenomenon. This phenomenon takes place in the ocean and brings adverse effects on the climate system of the land. The impact may bring drought and excessive rainfall depending on the factors that affect the climate.

Indicators

- Sea surface temperature
- Surface pressure
- Tradewinds
- Cloud

Effects on Philippine Climate

- Early Rainy Season
- · Short Dry Season
- Strong Monsoon Activity
- More Tropical Cyclones
- Above Normal Rainfall

Risk related to La Niña

- Flooding
- Flash Floods
- Landslides
- Coastal Erosions

Possible Impacts

- Loss of life and property
- Prevalence of water-borne diseases (cholera, leptospirosis & Schistosomiasis)
- Extensive damage to crops
- Damage to infrastructure
- Economic losses (due to traffic, work and class suspension)
- Disruption of learning/ education

Sources:

- Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US-NOAA)

Annex 2: Division La Niña Preparedness Plan

Rationale:

The Division La Niña Preparedness Plan has been developed in response to PAGASA's confirmation of persistent La Niña conditions until March 2025. Characterized by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, La Niña is expected to bring above-normal rainfall, increasing the likelihood of floods, flash floods, landslides, and intensified tropical cyclone activity within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). These hazards pose significant risks to lives, property, and education continuity.

Given the unpredictable nature of weather patterns during the monsoon season, a proactive and coordinated approach is essential to safeguard learners, personnel, and stakeholders. This plan emphasizes preparedness actions such as early warning systems, reinforcement of school structures, and stockpiling emergency supplies to mitigate risks and ensure swift responses. By strengthening disaster resilience, the plan aims to protect lives, minimize disruptions to education, and enhance community safety amid the challenges posed by La Niña.

1.1 Policies

This preparedness plan aligns with the following national and local policies:

- Republic Act No. 10121: Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010.
- Department of Education (DepEd) Order No. 37, s. 2015: Comprehensive DRRM in Basic Education Framework.
- NDRRMC Memorandum No. 01, s. 2025: Maintaining NDRRMC Alert Status to Blue in light of La Niña Conditions.
- Local DRRM policies implemented by the City of Lucena.

1.2 Objectives:

The objectives of this plan are as follows:

- 1. To enhance the disaster preparedness and response capacities of schools and personnel.
- 2. To mitigate the risks associated with La Niña-related hazards, such as floods, flash floods, and landslides.
- 3. To ensure the safety and well-being of learners, personnel, and stakeholders.
- 4. To establish clear protocols for communication, reporting, and coordination.
- 5. To facilitate the continuity of education amidst adverse weather conditions.

1.3 Steps to Undertake:

1. Pre-disaster Phase:

- o Conduct risk assessments and hazard mapping in schools.
- o Organize training for DRRM coordinators on disaster preparedness and response.
- Disseminate advisories through official channels, including SMS, email, and social media.
- Secure school and division office infrastructure and learning materials.
- Stockpile emergency supplies, including first aid kits, food, and water.
- Establish clear communication lines with LGUs, PAGASA, and other DRRM stakeholders.
- o Develop and update school-based contingency plans.

2. During Disaster Phase:

- o Implement evacuation and safety protocols as needed.
- o Coordinate with local DRRM offices for emergency response.
- Provide immediate assistance to affected learners and personnel.

3. Post-disaster Phase:

- Conduct damage and needs assessments. Document impacts and prioritize recovery efforts.
- Facilitate the recovery of learning activities. Facilitate repairs of damaged infrastructure and provision of learning materials.
- o Provide psychosocial support to affected learners and personnel.
- Conduct post-event evaluation to identify lessons learned and update the plan.

1.4 Activation

The Division La Niña Preparedness Plan is activated under the following conditions:

- Issuance of PAGASA advisories indicating severe weather events.
- Declaration of a blue or higher alert level by the NDRRMC.
- Observed risks or impacts of La Niña-related hazards within the division.

1.5 Task Force

Division Level

- Chairperson: Schools Division Superintendent (SDS)
- Co-Chairperson: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent (ASDS)
- Members:
 - o Chief, School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)
 - o Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division (CID)
 - o Administrative Officer V
 - o Division DRRM Coordinator
 - o Health and Nutrition Section Head
 - o Public Information Officer

School Level

- Chairperson: School Head
- Co-Chairperson: School DRRM Coordinator
- Members:
 - o Teachers
 - o Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Representatives
 - Student Government Leaders
 - Local Barangay Representatives

1.6 Communication

1.6.1 Alert and Notification

- Regular dissemination of weather updates and advisories through official communication channels, including text blasts, email, social media and posting signage around the school premises, and conducting safety drills.
- Coordination with local DRRM offices and PAGASA for real-time updates. Arrange backup communication such as two-way radio, cellular phones and always have spare batteries and backup power/emergency generators.

1.6.2 Reporting Process

- Schools report incidents and damage to the Division Office using the prescribed templates.
- The Division consolidates reports and communicates with higher authorities and local government units for assistance

1.7 Roles and Responsibilities

Division Level

- 1. Monitor weather updates and coordinate with LGUs.
- 2. Provide technical assistance to schools.
- 3. Facilitate resources for emergency response.

School Level

- 1. Conduct regular safety drills.
- 2. Ensure the safety of students and personnel.
- 3. Maintain updated contact lists of local emergency services.

1.8 Expected Outcome

The Division La Niña Preparedness Plan aims to:

- Minimize risks and impacts of La Niña-related hazards.
- Ensure the safety and resilience of schools and communities.
- · Facilitate quick recovery and continuity of education.

1.9 Plan Updating and Revisions

The plan shall be reviewed and updated annually or as needed based on:

- · New advisories from PAGASA and other agencies.
- · Feedback from schools and stakeholders.
- Lessons learned from actual disaster events.

Annex 3: Preparedness Measures for La Niña

SCHOOL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

- Check flood warning advisories from PAGASA, your Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and Local News Bulletins.
- Closely coordinate with your Division DRRM Coordinator for information coming from the DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) and report conditions in your school and surrounding vicinity.
- Form and/or activate your School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Team (SDRRMT). Involve various offices in the team.
- Develop a School Disaster Preparedness or Contingency Plan for La Niña and Tropical Cyclone and related risks (flood, landslides).
- Coordinate and work with the barangay to link preparedness measures in the School Disaster Preparedness/ Contingency Plan with the Contingency Plan of the barangay.
- · Create a database of your students and their family contact details.
- Post a directory of emergency contact numbers of relevant government agencies and offices (LGU, Barangay, BFP, PNP and other essential utilities etc.). In various areas of the school, ensure that students and parents know these numbers.
- Equip the school with first aid kits, flashlights, megaphones, and other necessary supplies that may e needed in times of disaster and emergencies. Ensure that theses items can be easily located and accessed.
- Advise students and their parents to have their family disaster/ emergency kit. Provide guidance on the items that the kit should contain.

SAFE LEARNING FACILITIES

- Clean and clear canals and other waterways in the school vicinity to prevent clogging and flooding.
- Prune trees to avoid entanglement from electrical wirings and potential harm to life and property.
- · Ensure that school buildings can withstand heavy rain and strong winds.
- Install rainwater harvesting and storage in your school.

DRR IN EDUCATION

- Educate personnel and learners about La Niña and weather disturbances, including rainfall warnings, typhoon signals, and possible effects and measures to undertake using the websites of the Department of Science and Technology and PAGASA.
- Incorporate lessons on hazards and preparedness in classes and extracurricular activities so that students are equipped with necessary knowledge and skills on what to do before, during, and after the onslaught of hazards.\
- Ensure that teachers provide assignments to students that will make them convey their learning to as well as work with their parents and family members in preparing for La Niña and other related hazards.
- Identify storage area/s for safekeeping of vital records, textbooks, teaching manuals, computers, and other school equipment.

Source:

DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service

Annex 4: Disaster Risk Reduction Resource Manual for Schools (DepEd 2008)

Hazard	Preparedness	Response	Rehabilitation
Tropical	- Coordinate with	- Monitor	- Provide first aid
Cyclone	Barangay Disaster	PAGASA	for injuries.
	Councils.	updates.	- Report damages
	- Ensure buildings are	- Gather	- Coordinate with
	strong.	students in safe	LGUs for
	- Educate students on	buildings.	assistance.
	cyclone safety.	- Keep pupils	
	- Participate in drills.	indoors and	
	- Follow class	calm.	
	suspension policies.		
Thunderstorm	- Learn about	- Stay indoors,	- Monitor weather
	thunderstorm risks.	away from tall	updates.
	- Trim trees and secure	objects, and	- Send students
	outdoor objects.	avoid plumbing.	home if safe.
	- Educate on lightning	- Unplug	- Report fallen
	dangers.	appliances.	power lines and
		- Postpone	damage.
		outdoor	
		activities.	
Flood	- Identify flood-prone	- Keep students	- Report damaged
	areas.	calm.	utilities.
	- Prepare evacuation	- Warn against	- Inspect
	plans.	crossing deep or	electrical systems
	- Keep a survival kit	fast-moving	before use.
	ready.	water.	- Stay away from
	- Ensure drainage is	- Avoid flash	flooded areas.
	clear.	flood areas.	
Storm Surge	- Identify storm surge	- Evacuate to	- Check food and
	zones.	higher ground.	water safety.
	- Create evacuation	- Turn off the	- Inspect
	routes.	power.	structural
	- Recommend seawall	- Avoid coastal	damage and
	construction.	areas.	electrical wiring.
	- Conduct regular drills.	一直接接上海	
Landslide	- Obtain clearance from	- Evacuate	- Stay away from
	authorities on landslide	immediately.	landslide-prone
	risks.	- Stay away from	areas.
	- Conduct evacuation	debris paths.	- Inspect
	drills.	- Run across	damaged
	- Plant grasses or build	slopes if	buildings.
	ripraps.	necessary.	- Consult experts
			for evaluation.

This table organizes key preparedness, response, and rehabilitation actions for each hazard for easy reference during school disaster management planning and implementation.

Annex 5: Hazard Assessment Report





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 DATE
 24 October 2024, 3:05 pm

 LOCATION
 Lucena City, Quezon

 COORDINATES
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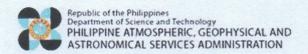
HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS ASSESSMENT

HAZARD	ASSESSMENT	EXPLANATION AND RECOMMENDATION
Rain-Induced Landslide	Low Susceptibility; No identified landslides	Areas with low susceptibility to rain-induced landslides are gently sloping areas with no identified landslides.
		Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures as deemed necessary by project engineers and LGU building officials is recommended for landslide-susceptible areas. This includes performing site-specific studies to address potential foundation/slope stability problems.
		Monitoring of signs/evidences of ground movement such as tension cracks, tilted trees and fences, and bulging road sections in areas that are moderately to critically susceptible to landslides should be done regularly and reported to local authorities and/or the MGB.

Explanation and Recommendation:

Note:

- All hazard assessments are based on the available susceptibility maps and the coordinates of the user's selected location.
- Depending on the basemaps used and methods employed during mapping, discrepancies may be observed between location of hazards or exposure information and actual ground observations.
- In some areas, hazard assessment may be updated as new data become available for interpretation
 or as a result of major topographic changes due to onset of natural events.
- The possibility of both rain-induced landslide and flooding occurring is not disregarded. Because of the
 composite nature of MGB's 1:10,000-scale Rain-induced Landslide and Flood Susceptibility Maps, it
 spatially prioritizes the more frequently occurring and most damaging hazards in an area. Continuous
 updating is being done.
- For site-specific evaluation or construction of critical facilities, detailed engineering assessment and onsite geotechnical engineering survey may be required.





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 DATE
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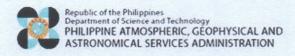
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HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS ASSESSMENT

HAZARD	ASSESSMENT	EXPLANATION AND RECOMMENDATION
Severe Wind perio	117.1 - 220 kph {20-year return	The Regional Severe Wind Hazard Map represents the 3-second peak gust wind speed measured at 10-meter height (above ground) over open and flat terrain. This does not take into account the local factors such as topography, terrain roughness and shielding from neighbouring structures.
		The Regional Severe Wind Hazard is expressed in terms of Return Periods(RPs) of Tropical Cyclone winds. Return period means the repeat interval, or the estimate of likelihood and severity of severe wind event. Return periods are then translated into Annual Exceedance Probabilities (AEPs) which are the chance that a given severe wind hazard level will be equalled or exceeded in any year. At higher return periods, the wind speeds are stronger but are less
	period); 117.1 - 220 kph (500-year	frequent.
	return period)	At lower return periods, the wind speeds are less intense but are more frequent.
		The Regional severe wind hazard maps are used to update the wind zoning map of the Philippines and as reference in designing building structures.
		For those areas identified as high risk to wind damage, building codes/regulations must be strictly implemented to mitigate severe wind risks. For already developed areas, retrofitting is encouraged - the methods applied in this study can be used to set out a cost-benefit study for retrofitting older, more vulnerable building types to increase their resilience to severe winds.





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 DATE
 24 October 2024, 3:05 pm

 LOCATION
 Lucena City, Quezon

 COORDINATES
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HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS ASSESSMENT

HAZARD ASSESSMENT		EXPLANATION AND RECOMMENDATION	
Storm Surge	Data are being updated	A storm surge ("daluyong ng bagyo") is the abnormal rise in sea leve that occurs during tropical cyclones or "bagyo". It happens when a very strong tropical cyclone blows-off excessive amounts of seawate toward low-lying coastal communities.	
		It is catastrophic and life-threatening because a storm surge can cause massive inland flooding, sometimes in unimaginable heights. I is even more dangerous when the storm surge coincides with a high tide.	
		For storm surge-prone communities, the most important considerations are 1) the strength of the tropical cyclone, 2) the height of the surge, and 3) if the community is located in a low-lying areas.	

Explanation and Recommendation:

Note:

- All hazard assessments are based on the available susceptibility maps and the coordinates of the user's selected location.
- Depending on the basemaps used and methods employed during mapping, discrepancies may be observed between location of hazards or exposure information and actual ground observations.
- In some areas, hazard assessment may be updated as new data become available for interpretation
 or as a result of major topographic changes due to onset of natural events.
- For site-specific evaluation or construction of critical facilities, detailed engineering assessment and onsite geotechnical engineering survey may be required.



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NEAREST CRITICAL FACILITIES

CRITICAL FACILITY NAME	TYPE	DISTANCE FROM SPECIFIED LOCATION
Lucena West Es	Public Elementary School	41 m
Quezon National High School	Public Secondary School	184 m
liayang Iyam Barangay Health Station I	Government Health Facility	54 m
Mount Carmel Diocesan General Hospital	Private Health Facility	915 m
MSR Diversion Rd; Quezon (second District)	Primary Road Network	2.8 km
MSR Old Route; Quezon (second District)	Secondary Road Network	97 m

Explanation and Recommendation:

Note:

- All hazard assessments are based on the available susceptibility maps and the coordinates of the user's selected location.
- Depending on the basemaps used and methods employed during mapping, discrepancies may be
 observed between location of hazards or exposure information and actual ground observations.
- In some areas, hazard assessment may be updated as new data become available for interpretation
 or as a result of major topographic changes due to onset of natural events.
- All computations are based on the available exposure data and the coordinates of the user's selected location
- Schools data obtained from Department of Education (2015)
- Health facilities data obtained from Department of Health (2016)

This is a system-generated report. It does not require any signature if it has been issued without any alteration.

Annex 6: PAGASA La Niña Flyer

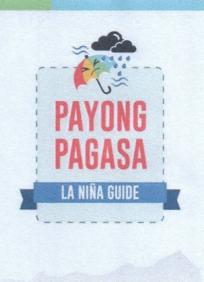












PAGASA

Annex 7: Emergency Hotlines



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Prepared by:

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PDO II - DRRM

Reviewed:

EPIFANIA P. CARANDANG EdD
Chief Education Supervisor, SGOD

Approved:

SUSAN DL. ORIBIANA

Schools Division Superintendent

For the Schools Division Superintendent

Edenia Q. Labranda

EDENIA O. LIBRANDA

Chief Education Supervisor

Officer-In-Charge

Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent

Date: Jan. 24, 2025