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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region V– Bicol
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF LIGAO CITY

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From the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

93026544

September 30, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 0479, s. 2026

PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN ANTICIPATION OF EL NIÑO, EXTREME HEAT, DRY SPELL AND POSSIBLE DROUGHT

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
CID and SGOD Chief Education Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
School DRRM Coordinators
All Concerned

1. The Schools Division of Ligao City reminds all schools and offices to strengthen preparedness measures in anticipation of the possible impacts of the continuing El Niño phenomenon, including extreme heat, reduced rainfall, dry conditions, water shortage, and possible drought.

2. This is in view of the latest DOST-PAGASA climate advisory issued on 23 September 2026, indicating that a Strong El Niño is currently present and may intensify to Very Strong El Niño during September–December 2026 and persist into the first half of 2027. The condition may result in warmer-than-usual temperatures, below-normal rainfall, dry spells/drought, and possible water-supply concerns.

3. In preparation, all School Heads and School DRRM Coordinators are directed to undertake the following practical measures:

a. Monitor conditions.
Regularly check official PAGASA weather and heat-index advisories and monitor actual conditions in the school.

b. Secure water.
Check water sources, storage tanks, pumps and drinking-water facilities. Ensure adequate potable water and implement reasonable water conservation measures.

c. Protect learners and personnel from heat.
Ensure proper classroom ventilation, provide access to drinking water, maximize shaded/cool areas, and minimize prolonged outdoor activities during periods of excessive heat.

d. Review school emergency arrangements.
Check first-aid supplies, emergency contacts, communication systems, and

procedures for responding to heat-related illness, water shortage, fire and other emergencies.

e. Review the Learning and Service Continuity Plan (LSCP).
Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place should extreme heat, water shortage or other hazards affect regular school operations, consistent with existing DepEd policies.

f. Coordinate with local authorities.
Maintain coordination with the City DRRMO, City Health Office, BFP, barangay officials, water service providers and other partners when assistance or technical support is needed.

g. Report significant incidents.
Immediately report to the **SDO DRRM Office** any heat-related illness, serious water shortage, fire incident, major operational disruption, or other hazard affecting the safety and continuity of school operations through the established reporting mechanisms.

4. School Heads are encouraged to conduct a brief orientation with teachers, non-teaching personnel and learners on heat safety, hydration, water conservation, and what to do during heat-related emergencies.

5. All schools are reminded that while generally dry and warmer conditions may be experienced, localized heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and tropical cyclones may still occur. Regular monitoring and preparedness for other hazards shall therefore continue.

6. The Division DRRM Office shall continue monitoring PAGASA advisories and provide appropriate updates and technical assistance to schools as conditions develop.

7. All School Heads are requested to ensure the immediate dissemination and implementation of this Memorandum.

8. For information, guidance, and compliance.

NYMPHA D. GUEMO
Schools Division Superintendent

Reference:
DOST-PAGASA Climate Advisory on the El Niño Alert/Outlook, 23 September 2026; DepEd Order No. 022, s. 2024,

SGOD-DRRM/JBG-008 '26

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Press Release

Climate Advisory for "Very Strong" El Niño

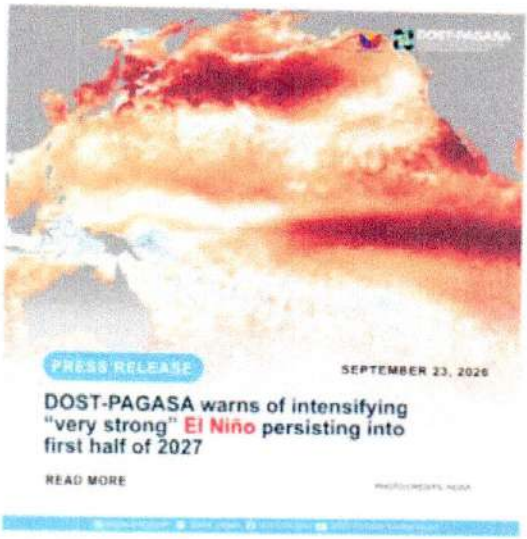
23 September 2026

Climate Advisory for "Very Strong" El Niño

PRESS RELEASE
DOST-PAGASA S&T Media Services
Quezon City, 23 September 2026

CLIMATE ADVISORY: DOST-PAGASA WARNS OF INTENSIFYING 'VERY STRONG' EL NIÑO PERSISTING INTO FIRST HALF OF 2027

QUEZON CITY, Philippines — The Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) advises all government agencies, climate-sensitive sectors, and the general public that a Strong El Niño is currently active in the Tropical Pacific.



According to climate models and expert evaluations, the phenomenon is expected to intensify into a Very Strong El Niño between the September–December 2026 season and persist through the first half of 2027.

El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), marked by abnormally warm sea surface temperatures in the Central and Eastern Equatorial Pacific and cooler-than-average ocean temperatures over the Philippine Sea.

While El Niño generally triggers warmer temperatures and below-normal rainfall across most of the Philippines, DOST-PAGASA highlights two critical factors:

Dry Spells and Drought: Prolonged rainfall deficits increase the risk of severe agricultural dry spells and water supply stress, threatening food security, water resources, energy production, public health, and the broader economy.

Short-Term Heavy Rainfall: Despite overall dry conditions, the ongoing Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) and active tropical cyclones may still bring localized, above-normal rainfall—particularly to the western section of the Philippines.

DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. urged local government units and key sectors to take proactive, data-driven action well before the full impact of the climate event is felt. "***Climate information must be utilized before a crisis strikes***," said Secretary Solidum. "*Adjusting*

agencies, climate-sensitive sectors, and the general public that a Strong El Niño is currently active in the Tropical Pacific.

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DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. urged local government units and key sectors to take proactive, data-driven action well before the full impact of the climate event is felt. "***Climate information must be utilized before a crisis strikes***," said Secretary Solidum. "*Adjusting farming schedules and preparing communities, infrastructure, and essential services early is vital. DOST-PAGASA has developed localized climate projections and CliMap, allowing users to access historical data and localized projections down to the municipal level to support long-term adaptation.*"

PAGASA Administrator Dr. Nathaniel V. Servando reaffirmed the bureau's commitment to continuous monitoring and clear public communication. "*We will continue to work closely with national and local government agencies to ensure critical, science-based forecasts reach communities promptly,*" Dr. Servando stated. "*Timely advisories will enable authorities and citizens alike to execute effective preparedness and response measures.*"

DOST-PAGASA will maintain strict surveillance over El Niño's developments and issue regular updates as conditions evolve. All authorities and the public are strongly urged to implement conservation and mitigation strategies immediately.

For more information, please call the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at (02) 8284-0800, local 4920 or 4921.

Original Signed:

NATHANIEL T. SERVANDO, Ph.D.
Administrator

View Press Release (PDF)

