



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION V - BICOL



24 August 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 01128, s. 2026

82426460

To : Schools Division Superintendents
SGOD Chiefs
Division DRRM Coordinators
All Others Concerned



DISSEMINATION OF THE MEMORANDUM NO. 48, S. 2026, PREPAREDNESS
MEASURES FOR SOUTHWEST MONSOON (HABAGAT)

1. This is to disseminate the attached Memorandum no. 48, s. 2026 issued by Bernardo R. Fortez, Jr., MNSA, Regional Director, Chairperson RDRMC Bicol, Regional Director, Office of the Civil Defense V, relative to the Preparedness Measures for Southwest Monsoon (Habagat).
2. For dissemination and appropriate action.


GILBERT S. SADSAD
Regional Director

ESSD-DRRM/JII/mcgb/drm/Jhen
08/24/2026

Aug. 24, 2026
To: School Heads
All others concerned

For information, guidance
and dissemination.



Address: Regional Center Site, Rawis, Legazpi City, 4500
Telephone Nos.: 0969 516 9555
Email Address: region5@depd.gov.ph
Website: <https://region5.depd.gov.ph/>



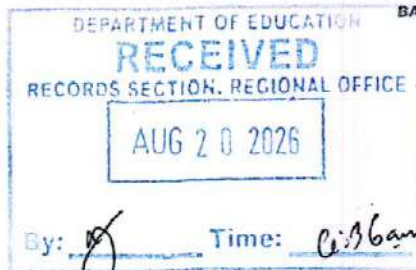


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
REGION V



MEMORANDUM

No. 48 s. 2026



TO : RDRRMC Member Agencies
Chairperson, PDRRMCs
Chairperson, LDRRMCs

SUBJECT : Preparedness Measures for Southwest Monsoon (Habagat)

DATE : August 19, 2026

With the prevailing Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) which is bringing moderate to heavy cloudy skies, scattered rains and thunderstorms in some parts of the Bicol Region, all concerned RDRRMC member agencies and Local DRRMCs are hereby directed to implement necessary preparedness actions, supplemented by additional measures for your respective agencies or localized situational assessments.

Furthermore, you are strictly mandated to ensure the immediate implementation of the following protocols:

- Conduct local Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) Scenario-Building Meetings with relevant stakeholders to evaluate potential hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop actional preparedness strategies tailored to each identified risk scenario
- In light of the ongoing El Niño and the conflicting risk of sudden water level surges from monsoon/localized rains, coordinate with concerned agencies to align on monitoring, preparedness, and response actions for dams and river basins within your area of responsibility.
- Monitor local tide forecasts alongside rainfall predictions to implement timely, effective flood mitigation measures.
- Integrate secondary risk such as landslides, structural weakening, lahars, and service disruptions into preparedness planning.
- Prioritize water and power supply for critical infrastructures, hospitals, and emergency medical facilities especially during compound drought and serve weather conditions

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

- Identify and maintain updated lists of high-risk and vulnerable individuals and households, including persons with disabilities (PWDs), senior citizens, children, pregnant women, persons with medical needs, and other individuals requiring assistance.
- Ensure that evacuation centers are accessible, safe, adequately equipped, and strategically located, with designated spaces and appropriate facilities for vulnerable groups.
- Prioritize PWDs and senior citizens during pre-emptive evacuations and ensure that their assistive devices, including wheelchairs, canes, and other essential equipment, are transported with them.
- Ensure the readiness and functionality of Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and breastfeeding stations in identified evacuation centers.

- Strictly implement Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and protection protocols, including adequate lighting, privacy, separate and secure restroom facilities, and appropriate referral mechanisms.

Resource Prepositioning & Asset Readiness

- Ensure the overall readiness of all response and rescue resources, including the activation of standby personnel and augmentation support as necessary.
- Preposition food packs, drinking water, medicines, hygiene kits, rescue equipment, generators, communications equipment, and other relief and response resources in strategic locations.
- Ensure the readiness and serviceability of personnel, vehicles, boats, rescue equipment, communication systems, and other critical assets, in coordination with AFP, PNP, BFP, PCG, LGUs, and other response-capable organizations.
- Identify and secure alternate routes, air/sea landing zones, staging areas, evacuation routes, and humanitarian corridors to maintain mobility and lifelines in the event of flooded roads, landslides, damaged bridges, or rough sea conditions.
- Ensure the availability of fuel, batteries, communications equipment, emergency power, and other logistical requirements for sustained operations.

Health and Medical Readiness

- Heighten surveillance for water- and vector-borne diseases, including dengue, leptospirosis, cholera, typhoid, and other diseases associated with flooding, stagnant water, and contaminated water sources.
- Ensure the readiness of hospitals, rural health units, emergency medical teams, ambulances, medicines, and other medical resources.
- Strengthen public health measures on safe water, sanitation, hygiene, food safety, and proper waste management during and after flooding.
- Monitor and address the potential mental and emotional impacts of prolonged emergencies, displacement, livelihood losses, and disruption of essential services.

Travel Restrictions and Safety Protocol

- Intensify monitoring of roads, bridges, mountain passes, slopes, river channels, and other critical infrastructure, particularly in areas prone to flooding and landslides.
- Enforce pre-emptive evacuation in communities highly susceptible to rain-induced landslides, flooding, flash floods, coastal hazards, and other threats, when warranted by available hazard information.
- Closely monitor major road networks, river systems, waterways, and coastal areas for rapidly deteriorating conditions.
- Concerned agencies and LGUs shall issue timely travel advisories, route restrictions, and other safety measures when conditions warrant.
- Implement a strict "no-sail" policy and/or suspension of maritime activities when sea and weather conditions become hazardous, in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard and concerned authorities.
- Exercise heightened caution in areas affected by volcanic activity, including communities and routes potentially affected by ashfall, lava flows, pyroclastic density currents, lahar, and other volcanic hazards, as applicable.
- Ensure that motorists and commuters are appropriately informed of road closures, landslide-prone areas, flooded roads, and other transportation hazards.

Business and Tourism Sector

- DTI, DOT, DOLE, Regional/Local DRRMCs, LGUs, and other concerned agencies shall maintain close coordination with private-sector partners and ensure continuity and safety protocols.
- Encourage businesses and critical establishments to update and activate their Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) as necessary.



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- Encourage flexible work arrangements or early dismissal of employees when severe weather conditions may compromise safe travel.
- Tourism offices, accommodation establishments, resorts, tour operators, and other tourism stakeholders shall ensure that tourists are properly accounted for and informed of prevailing weather advisories and local safety measures.
- Encourage the use of official weather information sources, including DOST-PAGASA advisories and the PANAHON Weather App, for timely weather updates.
- Tourism operators shall maintain adequate emergency water reserves and implement water conservation measures when necessary.
- Suspend or restrict high-risk outdoor activities, including mountain trekking, water sports, island hopping, and other activities, whenever weather, sea, or hazard conditions become unsafe.

Public Information and Widest Dissemination

- Emphasize in all risk communication activities that ongoing or prolonged dry conditions do not eliminate the threat of sudden heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides, and other rain-induced hazards.
- Regularly disseminate timely, accurate, consistent, and localized information to communities and stakeholders, including official weather bulletins, warnings, evacuation advisories, preparedness measures, and safety instructions.
- Implement a multi-platform communication strategy, utilizing SMS, radio, social media, official websites/pages, barangay communication systems, public address systems, and community announcements.
- Sustain public risk communication even during periods of light or moderate rainfall and apparent improvement in weather conditions, emphasizing that hidden hazards may persist.
- Ensure that appropriate warning systems, including visual and auditory warning signals, are functional and clearly understood by communities, particularly in flood, landslide, coastal, and volcanic-hazard areas.
- Concerned agencies shall ensure that proper warnings and highly visible safety signs are in place, especially along roads, bridges, waterways, landslide-prone areas, and other hazard-prone locations.

Coordination, Reporting and Continuous Readiness

- All Provincial, City, Municipal, and Barangay DRRMCs shall maintain 24/7 monitoring and coordination mechanisms as warranted by the situation.
- Ensure the timely submission of significant incident reports, situation reports, and other required information through established DRRM reporting channels.
- All concerned agencies and LGUs shall immediately coordinate any requirement for augmentation, search and rescue, relief assistance, evacuation support, medical response, transportation, communications, or other emergency resources.
- Maintain close coordination with the RDRRMC Operations Center/Office of Civil Defense Region V for the consolidation and dissemination of regional hazard information and response requirements.
- Continue monitoring areas with ongoing or potential volcanic activity and lahar hazards, particularly when heavy rainfall may trigger secondary volcanic-related hazards.
- All concerned authorities shall ensure that preparedness measures remain in effect and are continuously adjusted based on the latest official hazard information.

All concerned RDRRMC member-agencies, LGUs, and stakeholders are hereby directed to take the necessary preparedness actions and ensure the immediate implementation of appropriate measures within their respective areas of responsibility.

Let us remain vigilant and ensure timely, coordinated, and proactive action to safeguard lives, livelihoods, critical infrastructure, and communities throughout the Bicol Region.

For guidance and strict compliance.

Thank you.



BERNARDO R. FORTEZ, JR., MNSA
Chairperson, RDRRMC Bicol
Regional Director, OCD5

brf/jba/asb/rfmnaz