

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Earthquake Drill to Shake the Philippines on June 18

Another simultaneous nationwide earthquake drill to be participated by various sectors will take place throughout the country on **Friday, June 18, 2010**. National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Chairman, Acting Defense Secretary Norberto B. Gonzales directed the expansion of the quarterly simultaneous nationwide earthquake drill usually done in schools, this time to be also done in selected public buildings, private/commercial establishments and hospitals.

A series of planning activities have been undertaken after the NDCC Table-top Exercise on National Capital Region Disaster Response held on April 17, 2010. Using the scenario developed through the Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMIERS), the table-top exercise highlighted the need to test the preparedness of authorities in terms of inter-agency coordination, communication and inter-operability. Aside from generating community-based response, national mobilization of resources and response groups also need to be coordinated. Thus, volunteer rescue teams from Baguio City and Olongapo City will actually participate.

Selected regional pilot sites will serve as local launching venues of the drill. The Benigno S. Aquino High School in Makati City had been designated national venue for the pressing of the button to signify the start of the drill by 8:00AM. In the National Capital Region, aside from the BSA High School, the exercise directorate to be headed by the NDCC Chairman will also proceed to Ortigas Business District in Pasig City representing the commercial sector, the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City for hospital site demonstration and the premises of Camp Aguinaldo.

Among the areas to be tested include mass casualty incident management (MCIM), treatment of hazardous materials (HAZMAT), fire suppression, collapsed structure search and rescue (CSSR), high angle rescue, and helicopter rescue. The drill will also test the evacuation effectiveness of the guidelines issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

It can be recalled that the first ceremonial kick-off of the drill was held at Santa Elena High School in Marikina City in June 20, 2006. As of press time, over one million actual participants have been listed by the different regional centers of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) who will be coordinating the drill in their areas.

Media members are encouraged to cover the drills to widen public awareness. Point of contact is Mr. Lyndon Plantilla of the PIA via telephone number 9204348.