# DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND CRITICAL ISSUES ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

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#### I. Introduction

- Disasters, whether natural or human-made, affect everyone, especially the poor, children, women and the elderly who have the least capability to deal with disasters.
- From 1994 to 2003, some 2.5 billion people were affected by natural disasters alone worldwide, which is an increase of 60% over the past decade.
- More than 478,000 people werekilled during this period.
- Floods and earthquakes are the deadliest accounting for more than half of the total casualties.
- Asia is the continent most affected, accounting for more than half of the casualties, and more than 90% of those injured, homeless and needing assistance.
- Past disaster events worldwide would indicate that the impact of disasters is most felt by developing and underdeveloped
- countries, particularly the poorest segments of society.
- While governments are primarily responsible for disaster management, however, everybody is equally responsible to undertake disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and rehabilitation activities to ensure one's survival and safety during emergency situations.

#### II. RP DISASTER RISK PROFILE

• RP is vulnerable to almost all types of natural hazards because of its geographical location.

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- Located within the Circum-Pacific belt of fires and along typhoon path, the Philippines becomes exposed to natural perils like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, typhoons and their resultant effects like tsunami, landslides, floods and flashfloods.
- As an archipelago with 7,107 islands, the threat of tsunami affecting the country's coastal areas is not far-fetched.
- The Moro Gulf Earthquake with 7.6 intensity triggered a tsunami which affected Southern Philippines and resulted to the death of around 3,800 persons and destruction of properties.
- Yearly, the country experiences an average of twenty (20) typhoons, half of these are destructive; is a host to 300 volcanoes, twenty-two (22) of which are active, as well as active faults and trenches that are potential sources of earthquakes.
- The country has also its episodes of human-made disasters such as urban fires, air, land and sea mishaps, and complex emergency, mostly in Southern Philippines because of the secessionist movement, coupled with its vulnerability to floods and other natural hazards.
- From 1970 to 2000, the Philippines incurred an average annual damage of PHP 15 Billion or US\$ 300 Million due to disasters which have caused major setback in the country's socio-economic development.
- In 2004, the country experienced twenty-five (25) weather disturbances, four of these occurring successively in November and first week of December and brought massive landslides and flooding in Southern and Central Luzon. And also last year, RP ranked number 4 worlwidein terms of frequency (25) and death toll.

#### III. NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- The Philippine Disaster Management System (PDMS) is carried out at various political subdivisions and administrative regions of the country through the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), 80 Provincial Disaster Coordinating Councils, 113 City Disaster Coordinating Councils, 1,496Municipal Disaster Coordinating Councils, and 41,956 Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils, and 17 Regional Disaster Coordinating Councils, respectively.
- The NDCC is the highest policy-making body for emergency management programs in the Philippines, with the Office of Civil Defense as its operating arm.
- The Government of the Philippines adopts an all-hazard, comprehensive, interagency/multi-sectoral, community-based approach in the context of poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and sustainable development.

# DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND CRITICAL ISSUES ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

- The government pursues a comprehensive disaster management framework that encompasses disaster risk reduction/mitigation and preparedness in the pre-event, and disaster response and rehabilitation/recovery in the post-event. It is within this framework that all stakeholders in DM at all levels are expected to carry out their roles and responsibilities in a unified and coordinated way to achieve maximum results in ensuring a safe population and a safe nation.
- In a study by the World Bank looking at the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management for East Asia and the Pacific
- Region, particularly for the Philippines, the following issues were identified, namely: 1)
   Disasters are being dealt within manners that are ad-hoc and response-oriented; 2)
   Information on disaster risk is lacking and measurement of socio- economic impact of disasters is inadequate; 3) NDCC members and LGUs have limited risk reduction capacities;
- 4) Efforts by donors, multilateral and civil society are poorly coordinated and generated little effects, and 5) the Government bears majority of the cost of disasters.
- The main recommendation that emerged from this study was that the Government of the
  Philippines should develop a national framework for a comprehensive disaster risk
  management that should provide for political leadership and policy support at the
  highest levels, while facilitating the active engagements and implementation of all relevant
  stakeholders at the national, local, and household levels, and incorporate the three
  essential steps of integrated risk management, which include risk identification, risk
  reduction and risk sharing

# IV. CURRENT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INITIATIVES IN THE PHILIPPINES

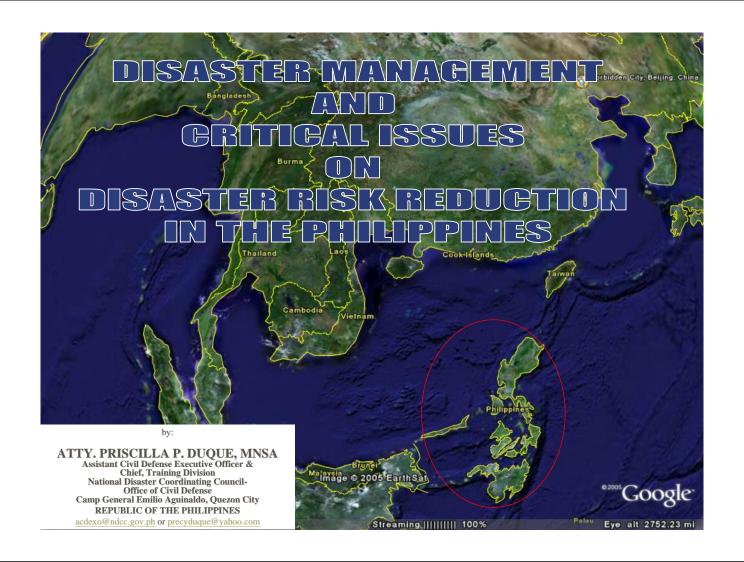
- NDCC Four Point Action Plan on Disaster Preparedness
  - upgrading the forecasting and warning capability of PAGASA and PHIVOLCS, which are the warning agencies for Met-Hydro and Geological hazards, respectively
  - public information campaign on disaster preparedness
  - capacity building for local government units in identified vulnerable areas
  - mechanisms for government and private sector partnership in relief and rehabilitation
- Hazard and Risk Assessment
- Integrating Disaster Risk Management in National and Local Development Plans

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- Disaster Management Training and Contingency Planning
- Community Based Disaster Management
- Customization of WBI Web-Based Disaster Risk Management Courses
- Enhancement of Emergency Response Capability through Training of First Responders
   Groups and Development of a National Incident Command System

# V. CRITICAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- Need for relevant and stronger legal and poliucy framework for disaster management
- Paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk management?
- Minimum basic needs vis-à-vis DM and Risk Reduction
- Coordination issue
- Disaster risk reduction viewed as as an expensive investment
- Program and Financial Sustainability



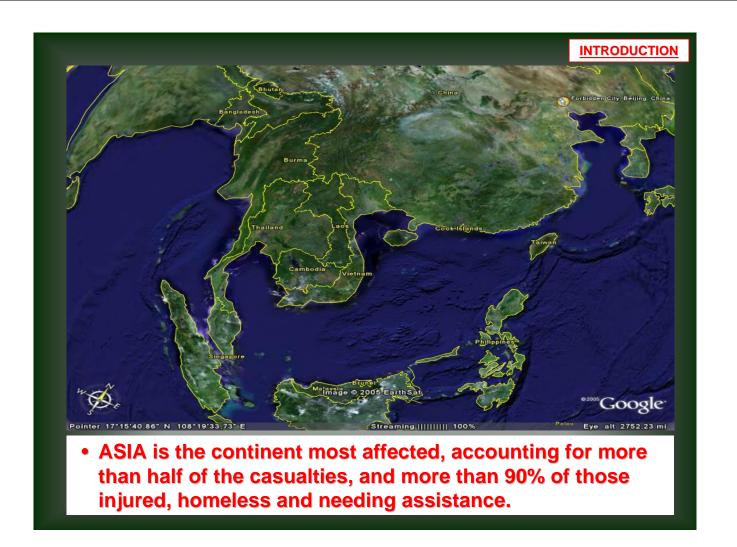






• Floods and Earthquakes are the deadliest accounting for more than half of the casualties.







INTRODUCTION

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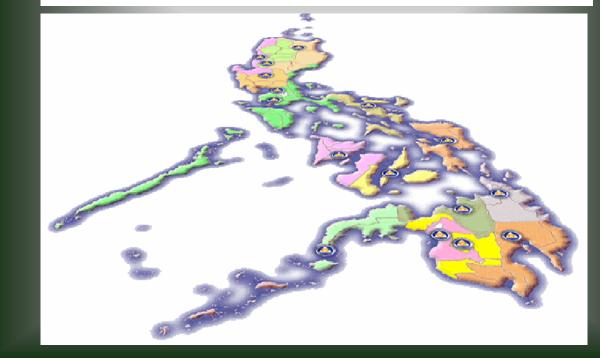
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#### **RP DISASTER RISK PROFILE**

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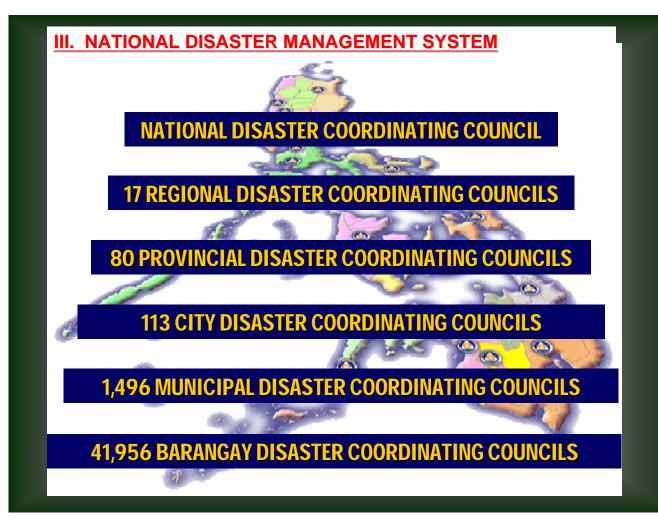
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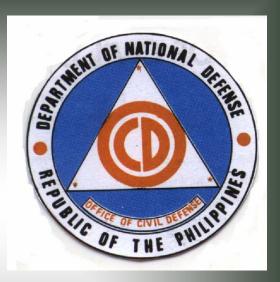


 In 2004, the country experienced twenty-five (25) weather disturbances, four of these occurring successively in November and first week of December which brought massive landslides and flooding in Southern and Central Luzon. Also last year, RP ranked number 4 worldwide in terms of frequency of disaster occurrence (25) and death toll.

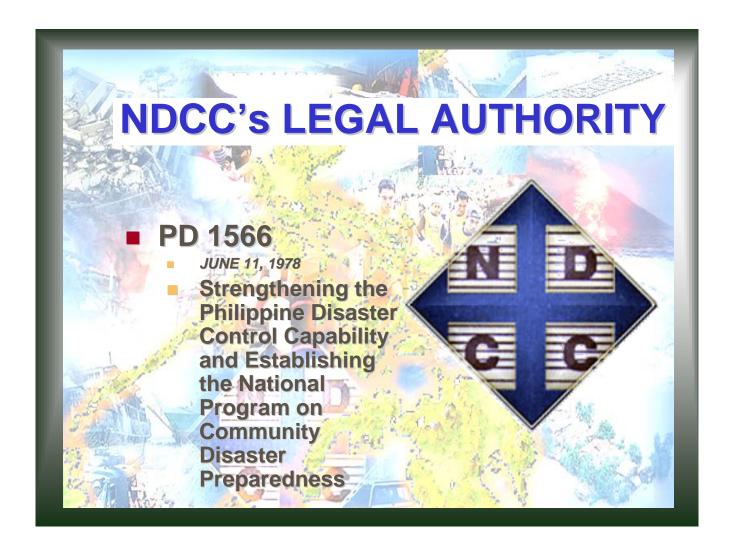


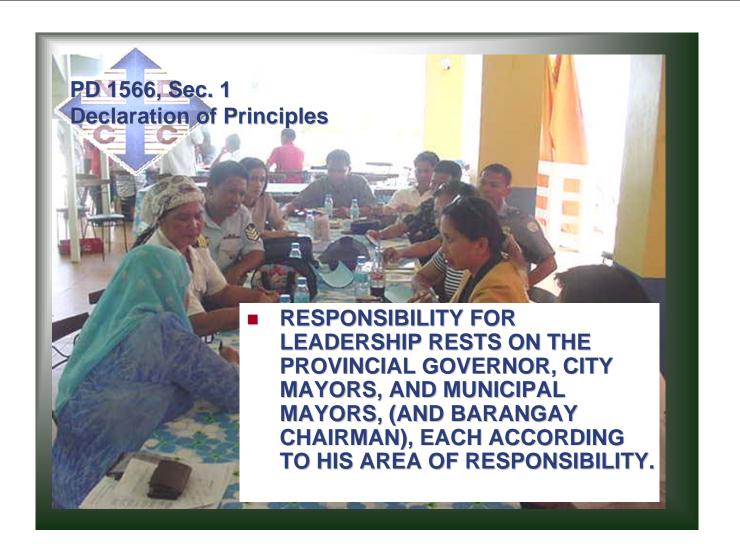
#### **NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

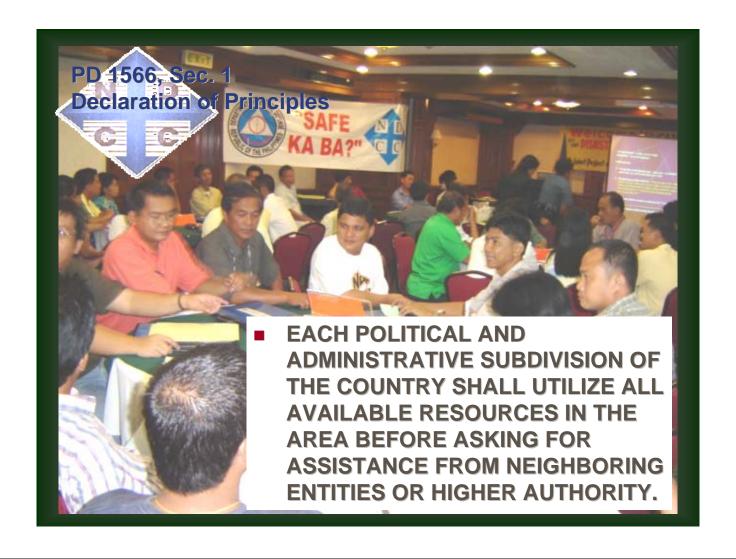




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# **COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**



The government pursues a comprehensive disaster management framework that encompasses disaster risk reduction, mitigation and preparedness in the pre-event, and disaster response, rehabilitation and recovery in the post-event.

#### NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

# **COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**



... a framework that is anchored on the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 2015 adopted during the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan last January, 2005.

## **COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

### **HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2005-2015**

### **Priorities for Action:**

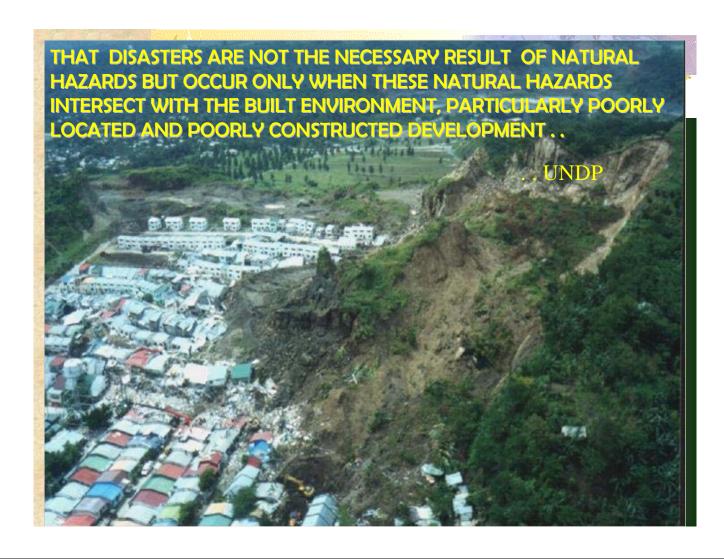
- Governance: Organizational, Legal and Policy Frameworks
- Risk Identification, Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning
- Knowledge Management and Education
- Reducing Underlying Risk Factors
- Preparedness for Effective Response and Recovery

#### **NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The Government of the Philippines adopts an all-hazards, comprehensive, inter-agency/multi-sectoral, community-based approach in the context of the UNMDGs (poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and sustainable development).





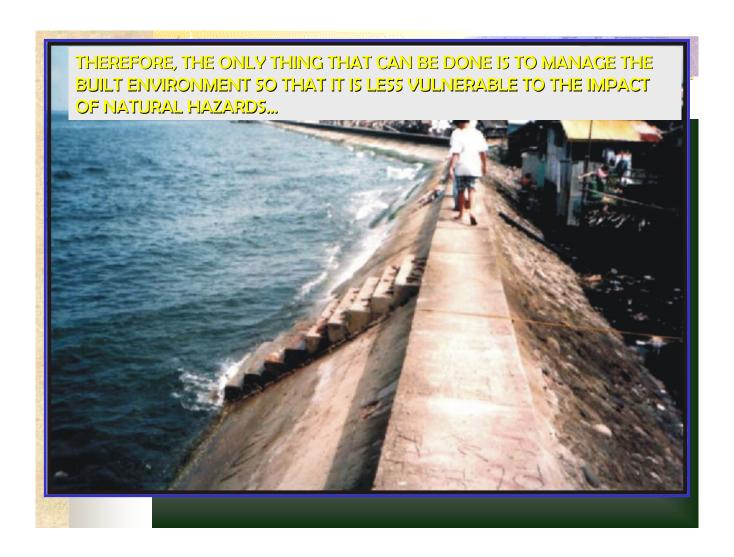


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