

Republic of the Philippines  
**NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
Department of National Defense  
Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

**MAR 04 1998**

**NDCC Memo Order**  
**Number 04**  
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**T O : NDCC Members**  
**Chairmen, RDCCs and Local DCCs**

**SUBJECT: Amended Policies, Procedures and Criteria for the Declaration of**  
**a State of Calamity**

1. **REFERENCES** : NDCC Memo Order Nos. 3 and 9, s-1989 and Sec. 1 of RA 8185, s-1996 and Sec. 6 (a) of IRR.
2. **POLICIES:**
  - a. To uplift the morale of disaster victims and hasten the return to normalcy in disaster-stricken areas, the entire resources of both the national and local government should be mobilized and utilized to the maximum extent. Relief and rehabilitation efforts should likewise be facilitated with the full participation of all concerned sectors of society.
  - b. The declaration of a state of calamity either by the local Sanggunian or by the President of the Philippines shall be based on the extent of casualties and/or damages in accordance with the guidelines and criteria set forth in this Memorandum Order.
  - c. In areas declared under a state of calamity either by the President of the Local Chief Executives (LCEs), the five percent (5%) reserve fund for emergency operations shall be utilized for this purpose by the local government unit (LGU) concerned. National Calamity Funds may be released to augment local funds for relief and rehabilitation efforts of affected LGUs.
3. **PROCEDURES:**
  - a. **Calamity Area Declaration by LGUs**
    - 1) Whenever a disaster or calamity occurs, the local Disaster Coordinating Council (DCC) shall conduct a survey of the affected area within 24 hours upon the impact to determine the extent of casualties and damages brought about by the calamity.



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- 2) Based on the damage assessment and evaluation of the DCC, the LCE shall recommend to the local Sanggunian the declaration of a state of calamity in the disaster area, together with appropriate disaster mitigation measures.
- 3) Within twenty four (24) hours from the occurrence of the calamity and acting on the basis of the recommendation of the LCE, the local Sanggunian concerned shall immediately convene and pass a Resolution declaring their area under a state of calamity and adopt measures to protect the lives and properties in the area.
- 4) When two or more barangays are affected by a disaster, the Sanggunian Bayan or Panlungsod, upon the recommendation of the Municipal/City Mayor, may declare the entire municipality or city under a state of calamity. The Sanggunian Resolution embodying the declaration need not be reviewed or approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.
- 5) When two or more municipalities or cities are affected by a disaster, the Sanggunian Panlalawigan, upon the recommendation of the Provincial Governor, may declare the entire province or a portion thereof under a state of calamity. The Sanggunian Bayan/Sanggunian Panlungsod of the affected town or city need not declare their areas as calamity areas.
- 6) The concerned Sanggunian shall immediately furnish their respective RDCCs and the NDCC a copy of the Sanggunian resolution embodying the calamity area declaration.

**b. Calamity Area Declaration by the President of the Philippines**

1. When two or more provinces or chartered cities are affected by a calamity, the National Disaster Coordinating Council shall recommend to the President the declaration of a state of calamity over these areas, including the release of calamity funds, if necessary, and implementation of appropriate remedial measures.

**4. CRITERIA FOR CALAMITY AREA DECLARATION**

- a. A city, municipality, province or region may be declared under a State of Calamity whenever two or more of the following conditions brought about by fire of catastrophic magnitude, destructive typhoons, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods lasting for at least four (4) days, or drought affecting crop production are present.

- 1) At least twenty percent (20%) of the population are affected and in need of emergency assistance or those dwelling units have been destroyed.
  - 2) A great number or at least 40% of the means of livelihood such as bancas, fishing boats, vehicles and the like are destroyed.
  - 3) Major roads and bridges are destroyed and impassable for at least a week, thus disrupting the flow of transport and commerce.
  - 4) Widespread destruction of fishponds, crops, poultry and livestock, and other agricultural products, and
  - 5) Disruption of lifelines such as electricity, potable water system, transport system, communications system and other related systems which cannot be restored within one (1) week, except for highly-urbanized areas where restoration of the above lifelines cannot be made within twenty-four (24) hours.
- b. For epidemics or outbreak of disease, a city or municipality, province or region may be declared under a state of calamity based on the following:
- 1) There is an occurrence of an unusual (more than the previously expected) number of cases of a disease in a given area or among a specific group of people over a particular period of time. To determine whether the number is more than the expected, the number should be compared with the number of cases during the past weeks or months or a comparable period during the last few years (at least 5 years).
  - 2) There is a "clustering" of cases. A "cluster" is a group of cases in a given area over a particular time.

## **5. DURATION OF CALAMITY AREA DECLARATION**

Calamity area declaration either by the President or the local Sanggunian may be enforced in the affected area for duration of one (1) year, unless the effects of the disaster is recurring or protracted, in which case, declaration shall be a continuing one. However, once 85% of the repair and rehabilitation works and services has been accomplished within one-year duration, the calamity area declaration may already be terminated or lifted by the President or the local Sanggunian as the case may be.

**6. MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN UPON THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF CALAMITY**

Upon the declaration of a state of calamity, the following remedial measures may be undertaken by the concerned national agencies/LGs in order to mitigate the effects of the disaster and stabilize the situation in the disaster-stricken areas:

- a. Automatic imposition of price control, monitoring, prevention and control of overpricing/profitteering and hoarding of prime commodities, medicines and petroleum products by the Local Price Coordinating Council; (sec. 1 of RA 7851);
- b. Programming/reprogramming of funds for the repair and safety upgrading of public infrastructures and facilities;
- c. Allowing the granting or restructuring of loans by government financing or lending institutions to bonafide victims of the disaster in accordance with their respective charters.

The same deferment or moratorium shall be granted to corporate borrowers of aforesaid government credit institutions whose operations are seriously impaired by the calamity.


- d. Release of national calamity funds to agencies involved in relief operations and rehabilitation and restoration of damaged infrastructures as well as to affected LGUs.
- e. Release of Local Calamity Funds within the affected LGU or other areas affected by a disaster or calamity for relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and other works or services.

**7. REPEALING CLAUSE**

Any provisions of pertinent Memorandum Orders or Circulars inconsistent herewith are deemed rescinded or modified accordingly.

**8. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**

This Memorandum Order shall take effect upon approval.

  
~~FORTUNATO U. ABAT~~  
Secretary, DND  
and  
Chairman, NDCC