



# PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

Public Affairs Service, DND Annex Building, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City 1110

**Website:** [www.dnd.gov.ph](http://www.dnd.gov.ph) | **E-Mail:** [publicaffairs.dnd@gmail.com](mailto:publicaffairs.dnd@gmail.com)

**Tel:** (+632) 982-5679 | 911-6001 to 31 ext. 8229 | **Fax:** (+632) 911-7113

**Date Released:** 26 June 2018

**Releasing Officer:** **DIR. ARSENIO R. ANDOLONG, MNSA, CESE**  
Chief, Public Affairs Service

## **SND Delfin N. Lorenzana's Message**

### **International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Earthquake Response Exercise 2018**

26 June 2018 | Tuesday | 1:30 PM | Fontana Convention Center, Clark, Pampanga

*[PLEASANTRIES]*

IT IS AN HONOR TO REPRESENT PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE IN THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY GROUP (INSARAG) EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE EXERCISE.

TRULY COMMENDABLE ARE THE PAINSTAKING EFFORTS OF THE ORGANIZER OF THIS EVENT, WHICH NO OTHER THAN THE INSARAG, A GLOBAL NETWORK OF MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS UMBRELLA. YOUR ADVOCACIES OF DEALING WITH URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE-RELATED ISSUES, ESTABLISHING MINIMUM INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS, AND FORMING A METHODOLOGY FOR INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION IN EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE, ARE TRULY ADMIRABLE.

FOR YEARS, INSARAG HAS BEEN CONDUCTING EXERCISES IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD SEEKING TO PRACTICE A COUNTRY'S RESPONSE TO A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE DISASTER AND ITS ABILITY TO WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND AGENCIES DURING THE RESPONSE PHASE OF THE EMERGENCY.

THIS WILL BE THE THIRD TIME THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL BE HOSTING THIS EXERCISE AS INSARAG EXERCISES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED HERE IN 2004 AND 2008. AND FOR THE THIRD TIME, WE FEEL PRIVILEGED AND THANKFUL THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THIS YEAR'S VENUE FOR THIS EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE EXERCISE.

OUR COUNTRY IS PRONE TO DISASTERS. YEARLY, WE SUFFER FROM AN INEXHAUSTIBLE NUMBER OF TYPHONS, VOLCANO ERUPTIONS, AND EARTHQUAKES, AMONG OTHER NATURAL CATASTROPHES. THIS IS MAINLY BECAUSE WE ARE LOCATED ALONG THE PACIFIC RING OF FIRE, A LARGE REGION IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN WHERE TYPHOONS FORM, AND WHERE MANY OF THE EARTH'S VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS AND EARTHQUAKES OCCUR.

RECENTLY, OUR GOVERNMENT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PRIVATE AND CIVIL SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN RIGOROUSLY AND REGULARLY

CONDUCTING EARTHQUAKE DRILLS, THUS, EVEN OUR NURSERY STUDENTS KNOW HOW TO DO THE DUCK, COVER, AND HOLD. IN THE BEST WAY WE CAN, WE ARE INSTILLING IN OUR CITIZENS THE CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE EXPERTS SAY THAT THE “BIG ONE” MIGHT HAPPEN ANYTIME SOON.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF OUR FOREIGN DELEGATES, THE “BIG ONE” IS THE MONIKER GIVEN BY EXPERTS TO THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE OF ABOUT 7.2 MAGNITUDE THAT COULD LEAVE METRO MANILA IN RUINS. REPORTS SAY THAT THIS CAN HAPPEN IN OUR LIFETIME AND SOME EVEN DESCRIBE THIS AS “LONG OVERDUE” BECAUSE THE WEST VALLEY FAULT, WHICH IS THE ONE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THE BIG ONE, MOVED FOUR TIMES IN THE LAST 1,400 YEARS OR AN ESTIMATE OF EVERY 400 YEARS. THE LAST TIME IT MOVED WAS IN 1658, WHICH IS 360 YEARS AGO. THIS IS THE REASON WHY OUR PREPARATION HAS BEEN VERY TREMENDOUS RECENTLY AND WE ARE GLAD THAT THIS INSARAG EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE EXERCISE WILL BE CONDUCTED BASED ON THE BIG ONE.

WE REALLY WANT TO MITIGATE THE EFFECT OF THIS BIG ONE BY INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT EFFECTIVE PREPAREDNESS IS COMPLEMENTARY TO LONG-TERM RISK REDUCTION. WE ARE TAKING ALL THE PREPARATORY MEASURES AS MUCH AS WE CAN, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO VULNERABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENTS, AWARENESS RAISING AND EDUCATION, AND OTHER MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.

WE ARE ALSO ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH OTHER STATES AND LEARN FROM THEIR BEST PRACTICES IN DISASTER MITIGATION. WE KNOW AND WE ARE CONFIDENT, AS WE HAVE PROVEN IN THE PAST, THAT OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WILL RENDER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WHENEVER NEEDED. WE ARE ALSO HERE TO GIVE THEM THE SAME ASSISTANCE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT EACH STATE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY, FIRST AND FOREMOST, TO TAKE CARE OF THE VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS OCCURRING WITHIN ITS BORDERS AND IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS WELL.

WE ARE GLAD THAT THROUGH THIS EXERCISE, OUR LOCAL RESCUERS WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING CAPACITY IN INTERNATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE. AND AS A WHOLE, OUR COUNTRY’S NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY WILL BE STRENGTHENED.

OUR COUNTRY ALSO DESIRE TO GET OUR MUCH AWAITED INSARAG EXTERNAL CLASSIFICATION AND THIS DRILL IS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE CLASSIFIED AS SUCH. THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM (PDRT), LED BY OUR ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS ALSO HOPING TO BE ACCREDITED AT THE INSARAG AND BE AT PAR WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITY. WE KNOW THAT AMONG THE ASEAN MEMBER STATES, ONLY SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED BY THE INSARAG. WHILE OUR COUNTRY, ALONG WITH INDONESIA AND THAILAND, ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF CLASSIFICATION. AS WE ARE DOING ALL OUR EFFORTS, I KNOW THAT WE, TOO, WILL SOON BE CLASSIFIED.

I KNOW THAT ALL THE DELEGATES ARE PRETTY MUCH EXCITED TO LEARN NEW CAPABILITIES ON EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE, SO WITHOUT MUCH ADO, I WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE EXERCISE! ###