Memorandum Order
No. CO , s. 2019

TO : NDRRMC Member Agencies
     Chairperson, RDRMCs and LDRMCs

SUBJECT : Revised Guidelines for the Declaration of a State of Calamity

1. REFERENCES:

   a. Section 16 and 17 of Republic Act No. 10121, and Rule 12, Sections 1-3 and Rule 13 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

   b. NDCC Memo Order No. 4., s-1998

2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

   a. State of Calamity – a condition involving mass casualty and/or major damages to the environment, property, infrastructures, disruption of means of livelihoods and businesses, and normal way of life of people in the affected areas as a result of the occurrence of natural or human-induced hazard.

   b. Casualty – a person who is either injured, dead, or missing during an emergency or disaster.

   c. Disaster – a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of the exposure to a hazard; the conditions of vulnerability that are present; and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption and environmental degradation.
3. CRITERIA FOR DECLARATION OF A STATE OF CALAMITY

A city, municipality, province, or region may be declared under a State of Calamity when any of the following conditions brought about by natural and/or human-induced disasters are present:

a. At least fifteen percent (15%) of the forecasted affected population based on science-based projection are in need of emergency assistance.

b. At least thirty percent (30%) of the means of livelihood on agricultural, business, and industrial sectors are affected.

c. Damage to critical and lifeline infrastructure/facilities such as major roads and bridges, power stations, potable water supply systems, and telecommunication facilities that may result to any of the following:

   i. Emergency response is hindered;

   ii. Local Government Unit (LGU) basic services are inaccessible and/or paralyzed which further aggravate the situation of communities; or

   iii. Services are disrupted which may take more than a week to be restored.

d. Widespread destruction of fishponds, crops, poultry and livestock, and other agricultural products.

e. Disruption of lifelines such as food supply chain, electricity, potable water system, other transport systems, communication system, access to health service, and other related systems that cannot be restored within one (1) week, or in the case for highly-urbanized areas where restoration of the above lifelines cannot be done within twenty-four (24) hours.

f. When there is an extremely high incidence of a certain disease whether communicable or non-communicable within a community, in a specific period of time, specific health-related behavior, or other health related events clearly beyond normal expectancy.

g. Significant degradation to environmental and natural resources based on the recommendations of government agencies [e.g. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on forest land degradation and Department of Agriculture (DA) on crop damages and drought].

4. AUTHORITY TO DECLARE A STATE OF CALAMITY

a. The Local Declaration. The declaration and lifting of the State of Calamity may be issued primarily by the local Sanggunian, upon the
recommendation of the LDRRMC of the relevant LGU, adhering to the criteria set forth in this set of Guidelines.

i. The concerned LDRRMCs shall assess the situation using available tools [e.g. Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDANA), Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA), and Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)] to determine the satisfaction of criteria for the declaration of the State of Calamity as stipulated in Section 3.

ii. When two or more barangays are affected by a disaster, the Sangguniang Bayan or Panlunsod, upon the recommendation of the Municipal/City DRRM Council, may declare the entire municipality or city under a State of Calamity.

iii. When two or more municipalities or cities are affected by a disaster, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, upon the recommendation of the Provincial DRRM Council, may declare the entire province under a State of Calamity.

iv. The concerned Sanggunian, through the LDRRMC, shall immediately furnish their respective Regional DRRM Council and the National DRRM Council a copy of the Sanggunian Resolution on the declaration of a State of Calamity.

b. The National Declaration. The President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the NDRRMC, may declare a cluster of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, regions under a State of Calamity, and lift such declaration. The President’s declaration may warrant request for and acceptance of international humanitarian assistance upon the recommendation of the NDRRMC.

5. UTILIZATION OF FUNDS

a. To strengthen LGU preparedness and emergency response capacities through strategic investment programming and budgeting, the LDRRM Fund Investment Program (LDRRMFIP) indicating the activities to be funded from the Quick Response Fund (QRF) [e.g. prepositioning of food and medical supplies] and DRRMF [e.g. procurement and installation of Early Warning System (EWS)] should be included in the Annual Investment Program (AIP) of the LGUs.

b. In areas declared under a State of Calamity either by the President or the concerned Sanggunian, the QRF from the National / Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (N/LDRRMF) or stand-by fund shall be utilized for relief and recovery programs in order that situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disaster, calamities, epidemics, or complex emergencies may be normalized as quickly as possible.

c. The National DRRM Fund may be released to augment local funds for relief and rehabilitation efforts of the affected LGUs with the favorable
recommendation of the NDRRMC and approval of the President. The Guidelines to access said funds is provided by the NDRRMC MC No. 46 s. 2017.

6. DURATION AND LIFTING OF THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF CALAMITY

The declaration of a State of Calamity may be enforced either by the President as recommended by the NDRRMC or the Local Chief Executive (LCE) upon the issuance of the corresponding Resolution by the local Sanggunian as recommended by the LDRRM in the affected area for a duration of one (1) year or less, unless the effects of the disaster are recurring or protracted, in which case the declaration shall be a continuing one.

However, the declaration of a State of Calamity shall be terminated or lifted by the local Sanggunian through a Resolution, or by the President through the recommendation of the NDRRMC, as the case may be.

7. 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/LGUs in order to mitigate the effects of the disaster and stabilize the situation in the disaster-stricken area:

a. Imposition of price ceiling on basic necessities and prime commodities by the President upon the recommendation of the implementing agency as provided for under Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as the "Price Act", or the National Price Coordinating Council;

b. Monitoring, prevention, and control by the Local Price Coordination Council of overpricing/profiteering and hoarding of prime commodities, medicines, and petroleum products;

c. Programming / reprogramming of funds for the repair and upgrading of public infrastructure and facilities;

d. Granting of no-interest loans by government financing or lending institutions to the most affected section of the population through their cooperatives or people's organization;

e. Utilization of the QRF from the LDRRM Funds within the affected LGUs or other areas affected by a disaster or calamity for relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery, and other works or services;

f. Subject to the approval of the President, release of the NDRRM Fund to agencies and LGUs involved in relief operation, response, rehabilitation, and/or improvement of damaged life line services; and
g. Use of alternative modes of procurement for efficient procurement of emergency works, goods or services to respond or quickly recover from disasters subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Concerned LGUs of areas declared under a State of Calamity shall submit monthly reports to their respective OCD Regional Offices, copy furnish the National DRRM Council, from the start of the declaration up to its lifting or normalization of the affected area.

9. REPEALING CLAUSE

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

10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

This Memorandum Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the official gazette and upon filing three (3) certified true copies with the Office of National Administrative Register, University of the Philippines Law Center.

DELFIN N. LORENZANA  
Secretary, DND and  
Chairperson, NDRRMC