

Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk

**SITUATION BRIEFING OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
ON TYPHOON “ODETTE”**

**[Held at the Malacañan Palace in Manila | 17 December 2021]**

**PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE:** Good evening. I apologize for being late, may doktor ako. Hindi man ako makauwi ng Davao so ‘yung doktor ko dito ang pumunta sa akin.

Is... The first in the program for tonight, the agenda is the --- the weather update by PAGASA Administrator Vicente Malano. Sir, kindly. Is he in the panel? Sige, Mr. Malano, go ahead.

**PAGASA ADMINISTRATOR VICENTE MALANO:** Maayong hapon, Mr. President; other members --- members of the Cabinet and fellow workers in the government, good afternoon.

Ito po ‘yung ating latest update related sa pagpasok at pagdaan ng bagyong si Typhoon Odette with international name “Rai”.

This is at 5 P.M., November 17, alam po natin na ang bayong si Odette ay atin pong binantayan noon pang nag-umpisa ng December 12 hanggang ngayon po. At ito po’y tina --- tinatahak itong CARAGA Region, tapos pumasok siya sa Leyte, then Central Visayas, sa Western Visayas, then after that dito sa may Palawan at sa ngayon ay nasa West of Palawan na po siya.

Ito na po ‘yung pinaka-latest areas na may warning signal po tayo. May Signal No. 3 po tayo dito po sa Northern portion of Palawan. Ito po ‘yung kasama sa --- may Signal No. 3, ito ‘yung mga bayan ng El Nido, Taytay, Araceli, Dumarán, Roxas, San Vicente and Puerto Princesa.

Doon po sa may Signal No. 2, ito po ‘yung central portion of Palawan, kasama po ‘yung Narra, Sofronio, Sofronio Española, Quezon, Aborlan, Rizal, Brooke’s Point including Kalayaan, Calamian, Cuyo and Cagayancillo Islands.

Iyon pong Signal No. 1 ay dito po sa Luzon mayroon po tayo dito sa Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, and the western portion of Romblon. Ito po ‘yung mga bayan sa western portion ng Romblon: Santa Maria, Odiongan, Alcantara, Looc, Sta. Fe, San Jose, Ferrol, San Andres, San Agustin, Calatrava, Corcuera, Banton, Concepcion and the rest of Palawan. Iyon pong may Signal No. 1 sa Luzon.

Sa Visayas po ay ito pong lugar sa Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, Antique, the western portion of Negros Occidental, ito po ‘yung mga lugar na ito: Cadiz City, Manapla, City of Victorias, Enrique B. Magalona, Silay City, City of Talisay, Murcia, Bacolod City, Bago City, Valladolid, Pulupandan, La Carlota City, La Castellana, Pontevedra, San Enrique, Moises Padilla, Hinigaran, Isabella, Binalbagan, City of Himamaylan, City of Kabankalan, Ilog, Candoni, Hinoba-an, and City of Sipalay, including Cauayan and Guimaras Island.

Iyon lang po, Mr. President. Salamat po.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** Is there --- is there new --- is there a new depression dito sa Pacific ngayon?

**ADMINISTRATOR MALANO:** Mayroon po na --- mayroon po tayong nakikita, Mr. President, na ang inasa --- inaasahan po nating papasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility sa hapon po ng December 24. At ang atin pong projection ay ito po'y mag-dissi --- dissipate po, hindi po tatama ng kalupaan, according to our analysis during --- this --- based on current data po na mama --- mag-dissipate po siya east of Bicol Region or Samar Island. Hindi po siya tatama ng kalupaan. Sana po hindi na matuloy.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** Sana po. Okay, thank you for the --- what I'm worried is that another one would be coming up during Christmas time. Mawa-wallop tayo nito.

I'm worried about --- you know, it's Christmas time, people are happy and we have this one after another. I hope not. It will dampen the spirit of the people during Christmas time.

Sana wala nang sumusunod. The one that you are referring to is not an intense one as Odette?

**ADMINISTRATOR MALANO:** Ah, hindi po. Depression po siya at ang sabi ko nga po kanina, inaasahan po nating mag-dissipate at hindi po siya tatama ng kalupaan po, several kilometers east of Bicol Region or Samar.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** I hope. I hope so and huwag lang sana. We cannot hardly afford any other depression coming our way during Christmas time.

Now, I would like to the sec --- go to the second dito sa ating program, agenda, is the presentation on the effects of Typhoon Odette. Dito tayo medyo --- well, I said we will hear from General Jalad. Are you there?

**NDRRMC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE**

**ADMINISTRATOR UNDERSECRETARY RICARDO JALAD:** Yes, sir. Good evening, Mr. President. I'll be presenting to the President and to the Cabinet members from the Operation Center of the NDRRMC here in Camp Aguinaldo.

I will be briefing on our preparedness and response --- immediate response measures, the initial effects monitored, and as well as our next steps.

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So shown is our preparedness and response measures. For the NDRRMC, we activated Charlie Protocol, the highest protocol when it comes to response against tropical cyclones, and we raised the red alert. We also issued alert and warning messages totaling 48 emergency alert and warning messages and 425 advisories from the NDRRMC.

The different departments and agencies also carried out preparedness measures like the issuance of directives to LGUs by the DILG; the prepositioning of health logistics by DOH; the preparation from schools, 275 schools to be used as evacuation centers by DepEd; the prepositioning of family food packs and other relief goods, totaling to about 1 billion --- P1 billion by DSWD; the monitoring of roads and bridges by DPWH; monitoring of the situations in ports by DOTr; the preparation and augmentation of rescue teams by the AFP, Bureau of Fire, PNP and Philippine Coast Guard.

Our early preparations likewise afforded the different Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Councils opportunities to prepare. And the --- our regional government agencies carried out prepositioned of resources, cascading of warnings and advisories coming from the NDRRMC, and providing assistance to local government units in their evacuation, search and rescue, clearing, provision of supplies, among others.

And also our local government units wherein the forefront in the conduct of preemptive evacuation to avoid casualties, the management of evacuation centers, as well as the conduct of initial assessment immediately when it was safe for them.

And following will be the initial report of the effects by Typhoon Odette. In region [please go back to that slide] shown is the timeline of Typhoon Odette which was already presented earlier by PAGASA.

[Next slide, please.]

Here are the initial monitored effects in Region VI, there's flooding in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. We monitored deaths numbering to six and most of this are due to fallen trees and mayroon ding drowning.

We have seven missing persons, affected families and individuals totaled about 5,864 families or 17,238 individuals. There was monitored power interruption in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo at Negros Occidental. And the rapid damage and needs assessment is ongoing in this region.

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In Region VII, shown is a picture of flooding in Sugbo Mercado, Cebu as well as in Loboc, Bohol along Loboc River. But as per report of our regional director in Region VII, the flooding in Loboc, Bohol is now slowly subsiding. There are four deaths monitored: two in Cebu City and two in Lapu-Lapu City. And these are still for validation.

The number of affected families and individuals are being assessed. There was monitored power interruption in Bohol, Cebu and Negros Oriental as well as communications and signal interruption from the telcos in Cebu and Bohol. Mactan Airport was likewise damaged and all flights are currently suspended.

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In Region VIII, we have pictures or initial reports of damages to buildings and structures. We monitored one death. Affected families is numbered about 5,275 families or 20,103 individuals. There was likewise power interruption in the province of Southern Leyte, Leyte, Eastern Samar and Biliran, as well as telco signal in Leyte, Southern Leyte and Eastern Samar.

In Region X, there was likewise reports of flooding but as we can imagine, there is one death monitored in the province of Bukidnon due to fallen tree and injuries to two person. And affected families numbered as shown 1,399 families or 5,984 individuals.

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In CARAGA, we monitored storm surge as shown in the video. In Surigao City, Siargao was the first island wherein Typhoon Odette made landfall. And the regional director of OCD together with the brigade commander of 402nd Brigade went to Siargao earlier today onboard two helicopters of the Philippine Air Force. And they had to go back to Butuan --- the helicopter had to go back to Butuan to ferry some supplies.

As per report from --- the information from the Provincial Governor of Surigao del Norte, Siargao Island is heavily damaged. There is no casualty reported though in CARAGA based on initial report from the Office of Civil Defense.

There was power interruption in these areas: Dinagat Islands, Siargao, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur as well as communications and signal interruption in Siargao and Dinagat Islands.

We are intending, Mr. President, to bring in a very small aperture terminal (VSAT) from DITC based in Butuan that will be ferried tomorrow morning so that it can provide satellite, voice and data communication in the operation center of the local government units as well as provide WiFi services in the different regions from that VSAT technology.

We are also intending, Mr. President, to bring in another VSAT tomorrow from our headquarters here in Camp Aguinaldo and we will be coordinating for an aircraft that will bring in some teams from Camp Aguinaldo to Siargao.

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Shown is the number of preemptive evacuation that we carried out in preparation for the landfall of Typhoon Odette. A total of 84,674 families or 338,664 individuals. These are the number of families and individuals that we saved by having them evacuated early.

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And for the summary of effects, Typhoon Odette affected Region IV-B, Region VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, and CARAGA. A total of 12 deaths are initially monitored, missing -seven persons, and injured - two persons. Again shown is the preemptive evacuation we conducted and --- but the total number of affected population and cost of damage is still being assessed.

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For our next steps, first will be the data gathering and validation of the incidents monitored, the number of casualties, affected population, the damaged houses, damage to agriculture and damage to infrastructure.

We will also be continuing with our aerial and field assessment. Earlier we --- the commander of WestMinCom joined the sortie of Black Hawk helicopters from Davao. I understand he went to Surigao Norte to see for himself the damage there.

We have to restore immediately power and communications and continue with the search, rescue and retrieval operations being conducted. We also have to provide the needed supplies like for example or relief goods like for example temporary shelter for those with damaged houses that can be provided by DSWD, the provision of food supplies and other relief goods that would be given also by DSWD and the support from the Office of Civil Defense.

I would like to mention also, Mr. President, that most of the relief goods and the food supplies from DSWD were already prepositioned in the different regional offices. And the ferry of --- or movement of those supplies will be coming from the regional hubs to the areas being affected. Likewise, provision of health supplies to areas needing them.

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So that ends my presentation, Mr. President. Good evening. Thank you very much.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** May isang tanong lang ako sa'yo Jalad, Secretary. Ano bang ano mo diyan? Ah undersecretary ka na pala. Tingin mo ang mabigat ang casualties --- the reports are not yet in but how do you assess the situation? Maraming fatalities dito?

**USEC. JALAD:** [inaudible]

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** I can't... Pakiulit lahat kasi walang sound. The audio is...

**USEC. JALAD:** Yes, Mr. President. Sa ngayon ang monitored or initial report of casualties numbered about 12 in total coming from all those regions affected.

And wala ring monitor --- na-monitor o na-report na landslides na madalas in the past typhoons ay big contributors of casualties ano. But hopefully, in the next few days in the conduct of more assessment by our LGUs and regional government agencies involved, there will be no more casualties to be reported.

But we are doing our best, Mr. President, to collect the needed information with the help of the local government units and other agencies involved.

I would like to correct also, Mr. President, that based on an information from the governor of Surigao Norte, there are two deaths reported from the Island of Surigao. But that is also being validated as of now.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** Okay. Are you going to the area? When?

**USEC. JALAD:** I intend --- plano namin, Mr. President, to proceed to Siargao tomorrow morning.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** Because the...

**USEC. JALAD:** Nauna na doon 'yung brigade commander ng 402nd at saka 'yung regional director ng Office of Civil Defense CARAGA galing sa Butuan and they will go back again tomorrow. Food supplies will be coming from Butuan to Surigao utilizing Philippine Air Force helicopters.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** The airport sa Surigao is okay?

**USEC. JALAD:** As per information from the area, 'yung terminal ng Siargao was damaged but the runway is usable, Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** The runway is good?

**USEC. JALAD:** Yes, sir.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** Take off and land? I'm --- I'm flying tomorrow to the area. Also, I would hit maybe Leyte, Surigao, and if there is enough time, Bohol. Then day after, I would try to visit Cebu, then dito sa western --- eastern, eastern side of the islands, ang Bacolod, Iloilo.

How --- how's the situation in Iloilo? Not much damage?

**USEC. JALAD:** We are still getting information from Region VI. We did not receive any report of any untoward incident, Mr. President. The path of the typhoon was south of Panay Island. So we expect no problem in Iloilo.

As I've said earlier, mayroong flooding doon sa Negros Occidental, which is the direct path of --  
- of Typhoon Odette.

**PRESIDENT DUTERTE:** I am not so much worried about damage to structures, infrastructures of government. Ang ano ko is --- ang takot ko kung maraming namatay. I am as eager as you to go there to see for myself.

We are trying to raise the money, I just --- I was also late, I was talking with the budget. Alam mo depleted 'yung budget natin immensely because of the COVID. Naubos talaga 'yung pera natin. We prioritize the expenses.

These typhoons, they are the imponderables as they would say. They would come, they would not come but the --- itong COVID naubos ang pera natin. So we're trying to scrimp how much we can raise so that we can marshal it to the areas affected.

I would like --- I would like to be --- to report or sa --- ako nanonood rin, or --- the Secretary of DPWH, that's one worry.

I've been trying to call persons there but I would want the secre --- the secretary to make the report to us.

**DPWH SECRETARY ROGER MERCADO:** Thank you very much, Mr. President, Senator Bong Go and members of the Cabinet...

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