

3.3.7 Philippines

Philippines

Negros Occidental Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council and the Creation of the Provincial Disaster Management Team (PDMT)

Negros Occidental, one of the six provinces in the Western Visayas region, is located in the northwest portion of Negros Island, the fourth biggest island in the Philippine Archipelago.

The province is composed of 13 cities and 19 municipalities, 661 *barangays* (villages) and seven political districts. With an estimated population of 2,565,723 (2002 census), it is the fourth most populous province in the country.

Negros Occidental perennially faces eight major types of hazards, of which 75% are natural and about 25% man-made, consisting of typhoons, floods, El Niño, earthquakes (tectonic), landslides, volcanic eruptions, fires, vehicular accidents and illnesses due to pollution.

To address these hazards and disasters, the local government established the Negros Occidental Provincial Management Team on July 7, 2001, with the task of managing, administering and maintaining the Provincial Disaster Management Team Office (PDMTO) and the Provincial Disaster Coordination Council (PDCC) Operation Center. In addition, it serves as head of the Secretariat and as the Quick Response Unit of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council.



Negros Occidental

The Negros Occidental PDMT undertakes the following tasks:

- Quick near real-time monitoring and reporting of incidents.
- Quick and rapid damage assessment and needs-analysis validation.
- Quick response support to the City or Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council in the affected area through coordination, specifically through Communication and Warning, Search and Rescue/Recovery and Engineering assistance/services.
- Medical and Transport Support.
- Security and other services.
- Conduct of Hazards Assessment Vulnerability and Risk Analysis in coordination with lower Disaster Coordination Councils (DCCs).
- Preparation and consolidation of specific hazards, vulnerability and risk mapping of all provinces.
- Updating province disaster preparedness, action and contingency plans;
- Coordination with the Negros Rescue Federation in Managing and Supervising the different rescue groups.
- Other activities at the instructions of the Chairman.

From July 2001 to December 2003, the PDMT has accomplished the following tasks:

- 1) Dissemination of a total of 913 Weather Information reports to the different stakeholders, as floods and typhoons are the major hazards that affect the province.
- 2) Organization of a total of 51 rescue groups throughout the province. These rescue groups are responders during calamities or emergencies in their respective areas.
- 3) Being named Best Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council for three consecutive years (2002-2004), having consistently maintained excellence in disaster management by pursuing programs within the

frameworks of multi-sectoral participation and self-reliance that contributed immensely to the safety and welfare of the provinces' constituents. This earned for the province the much coveted Hall of Fame Award.



Negros Rescue Federation safety equipment

The PDCC, through the leadership of its local chief executive, Governor Joseph G. Marañon, has institutionalized structures and mechanisms for effective disaster management, such as the organization of the Provincial Disaster Management Team and 37 Rescue Groups operating all over the province. He has also given continuous support to capacity-building programs for effective disaster response and donated 2.6 million pesos for the construction of an annex building for the Negros Public Safety Academy, an NGO partner training institution that is the first of its kind in the country.

- Term/Time Frame

July 7, 2001 -

- Total Budget

Fund Support and maintenance of the PDMT office is taken from the budget of the Governor's Office, while funding for Disaster Operations is taken from the Local Calamity Fund reserve (which comprises 5% of the annual provincial government's budget).

- Contact Details

Elma C Aldea, MNSA, MHA. Administrator, Office Defense and Executive Officer, National Disaster Coordinating Council