NFA releases 437 sacks of rice for Batanes quake victims

MANILA -- The National Food Authority (NFA) has released a total of 437 bags of rice in support of ongoing relief operations for the earthquake victims in Itbayat, Batanes.

NFA Administrator Judy Carol Dansal in a statement on Thursday assured that the agency has enough rice stocks in the province and could release more if needed.

"We will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate with DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development), LGUs (local government units), and other agencies to ensure that we will be able to provide the necessary rice supply for the relief operations, until the situation in the province is back to normal," she said.

The island municipality of Itbayat is the northernmost municipality of the country. It suffered the most casualties after twin earthquakes struck Batanes early Saturday morning (July 27), leaving at least nine people dead and dozens injured while causing damage to homes and structures.

Dansal said NFA now holds more than 10 million bags of rice stored in all of its warehouses nationwide for food security buffer stock ready to be released through relief agencies and LGUs for calamities and emergencies.

"NFA was able to procure 5.69 million bags of palay from local farmers already this year to bolster our buffer stock so we do not have to worry about availability of NFA rice for now, especially for relief operations because it is now the focus of our agency," she said.

The NFA chief also noted that the agency has standing memorandum of agreements with various relief agencies like the DSWD, Office of Civil Defense, and LGUs which allow them to withdraw rice on credit from the food agency for their relief operations anytime during calamities and emergencies. (PR)

ADVERTISING RATES

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LEGAL/ NOTICES ..... P160/col.cm.

NORTH SOUTH JOURNAL
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Tel. No. (046) 434-6167

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KWF tightens bid to protect indigenous languages

MANILA -- Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) aims to better help avert the extinction of indigenous languages nationwide.

KWF will align its efforts to achieve such a goal with the endangered language preservation and rehabilitation agenda developed by the agency and other stakeholders.

"We'll move based on that agenda," KWF language researcher Earvin Pelagio said.

He said that governance, economics, education, skills development, health, the indigenous community itself and promotion of one's own language are aspects covered in the agenda.

"Language endangerment is multi-sectoral so efforts to address this problem must not be focused on culture and research alone," he said. According to KWF, languages become extinct particularly if seldom or no longer spoken.

KWF said of the country's 130 indigenous languages, 39 are already in various stages of endangerment that need preservation and revival.

At this week's 2019 Buwan ng Wika launch in Manila, KWF Chairperson Virgilio Almario said indigenous languages are part of Philippine cultural heritage and articulate the country's history and rich indigenous knowledge. The country will permanently lose part of its heritage if such languages become extinct, he added.

"We don't want this to happen," he said.

'Wikang Katutubo: Tungo sa Isang Bansang Filipino' is the 2019 Buwan ng Wika theme, highlighting indigenous languages' importance in helping mold the country's past, present, and future.

To effectively save indigenous languages from extinction, Pelagio said there is need to promote socio-economic well-being of people who speak these.

He said the endangered language preservation and rehabilitation agenda reflects such need.

Government agencies must see the agenda to understand respective roles in helping protect indigenous languages, he added.

KWF said some indigenous peoples (IPs) are increasingly speaking Tagalog and other major Philippine languages instead of their own languages to avoid experiencing discrimination.

They also perceive major languages as among tickets to better socio-economic opportunities for them and their children, KWF continued.

Earlier, Pelagio said most endangered Philippine languages are in Northern Luzon.

Among Philippine languages at risk for extinction are Arta, Binatak and Iguwak in Luzon, Inata and Karolano in the Visayas as well as Manobo Kalamansig, Tigwahanon and Manobo Ilyanen in Mindanao.

KWF already identified the initial eight agencies that can help increase and sustain the use of endangered indigenous languages nationwide.

These agencies are the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Museum, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Commission on Higher Education as well as the education, interior, and social welfare departments.

Food is a basic need of indigenous language speakers so it is essential for the Department of Agriculture to be involved as well, Pelagio said.

"Ensuring their welfare is important in protecting indigenous languages," he said.

Proclamation 1041 series of 1997 proclaimed August of every year as Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa.

Buwan ng Wika highlights the importance of Philippine languages in promoting communication, understanding, unity, and progress in the country. (PNA)

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION OF SOLE HEIR OF AMADOR TRINIDAD AMADO AND IMELDA SAN GABRIEL AMADO

NOTICE is hereby given that FERNANDO SAN GABRIEL AMADO the surviving son and sole heir of the late **AMADOR TRINIDAD AMADO AND IMELDA SAN GABRIEL AMADO**, has adjudicated to himself the state of the deceased, consisting of a Savings Account at the Bank of Philippine Island (BPI) Vertex 1, San Lazaro, Manila Branch particularly Savings Account Number 009763-0186-68 and 009763-0186-41, pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 1, Rule 74 of the Revised Rules of Court of the Philippines, as per Doc. No. 453; Page No. 91; Book No. 12; Series of 2019 of Notary Public Marvin A. Tan.

North South Journal July 22, 29, Aug. 5, 2019

Batangas maps out contingency plan for strong typhoon

(From page 1)

Batangas public information office chief Jenelyn Aguilera said that provincial officials, along with representatives from the local government units (LGUs), national line agencies, and non-government organizations, have collaborated to craft the plan.

"This is the latest contingency planning formulation for the province after the earlier plans were crafted through the initiative of the provincial government like the contingency plans in the event of a tsunami, earthquake, and eruption of Taal Volcano," Aguilera said in an interview.

The provincial government, through the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), led the two-day contingency planning formulation workshop for hydrometeorological hazard, which ended Wednesday at the Pontefino Hotel.

She said the workshop was part of the culminating activities of the local government's observance of the Disaster Resilience Awareness Month in July with this year's theme, "Kahandaan sa Sakuna't Peligro Para sa Tunay na Pagbabago" (preparedness for disaster and hazards for real change).

Lawyer Kimberly Diane Garcia, the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer II, said the workshop was aimed at designing a guide for the local government units (LGUs), so they could come up with appropriate actions for Batangueños who may be affected in the event of a strong typhoon.

Garcia cited Section 12 of the Republic Act 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act, which mandates the PDRRMO to supervise the formulation of contingency planning for calamities or disasters, which might hit the province.

"The concrete plans serve as guide for the LGUs so that they could formulate the appropriate actions and interventions to help Batangueño residents who might be affected during a strong typhoon," she said.

Garcia said part of the contingency plan is to enhance the skills of local disaster management officers, search and rescue workers, and emergency responders; and strengthen the capabilities of the Batangas LGUs amid risks and hazards posed by natural disasters.

During the workshop, the PDRRMO also recalled as a case reference when Super Typhoon Glenda struck the province in July 2014.

It assessed that "Glenda" was the strongest typhoon to ever hit the province in recent times, and wrought havoc with a death toll of 17 and around PHP5-billion in damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and livestock. (PNA)