

QC mayor issues class suspension guidelines

QUEZON City (QC) Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte has released the guidelines in suspending or canceling classes and work in government offices.

Under Memorandum Circular 1, Series of 2019, members of the QC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QC-DRRM) will conduct a Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) in anticipation of typhoons.

The council's decisions during the PDRA will depend on the latest weather updates and advisories of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The assessment and evaluation in the PDRA will be the basis of whether the city mayor will issue a suspension on classes and work in government offices.

The QCDRRM Council will announce its decision not later than 4:00 a.m. on the day of the intended cancellation. In the event of extreme weather changes during the day, the declaration of suspension will be made no later than 11:00 a.m.

In case of typhoon signals, an automatic suspension of classes shall apply, pursuant to Department of Education Order 43-2012.

The mayor will prioritize the suspension of classes in primary, secondary and senior high schools, while classes in the collegiate level and graduate school will be the discretion of the school head.

The Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC) can also conduct their PDRA with Pagasa and QCDRRM to determine if class and work suspension is necessary for their respective jurisdictions without typhoon signals.

The BDRRMCs and school administrators should report to QCDRRM their decision to cancel or suspend classes in their areas, which should be backed by their PDRA.

Meanwhile, city operations involved in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, search and rescues will proceed regardless of the decision on class or work suspension.

Belmonte advised the public that announcements on class and work suspensions would only come from the QC Public Affairs and Information Services Department (PAISD).

"Announcement will come from QCDRRM, and PAISD is the only authority that can put out that news," the mayor said.