

LASAC SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) NO. 29

PROGRAMME TITLE	Taal Volcano Eruption, Batangas Province, PH.
PROGRAMME LOCATION	Province of Batangas
DATE COVERED	January 26, 2020 (as of 8:00 pm)
SITREP NUMBER	29
SUBMITTED BY	Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc.

I. Situation Overview

A. Taal Volcano Bulletin

Consistent with the advisory from PHIVOLCS-DOST, there has been a descending trend and weakening of volcanic and seismic activities which has reinforced the **downgrading of the alert level status from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 3.**

The following are among the variables observed and recorded by the command center in coordination with the PHIVOLCS-DOST:

Date	Volcanic Earthquakes	Tremors	Low-Frequency Earthquakes	SO2 Emissions
January 24	486	20	4	224
January 25	420	3	11	409
January 26	89	4	1	87
TREND	↓	↑	↓	↓

Apart from the downward trend, the institute has also ruled that minimal to moderate ashfalls is expected as white steam-laden plumes still persist over the Taal volcano island. The downgrading of alert levels have prompted local authorities to declare that residents of all towns under lockdown, **EXCEPT** Agoncillo and Laurel are now given the **OPTION** to return to their respective residences and place of work. However, it is strongly recommended that the following be seriously considered:

1. That it is possible that the Taal Volcano may still erupt, and therefore all returning residents must be constantly alert and ready to evacuate within one (1) hour should the alert level be raised again to Level 4;

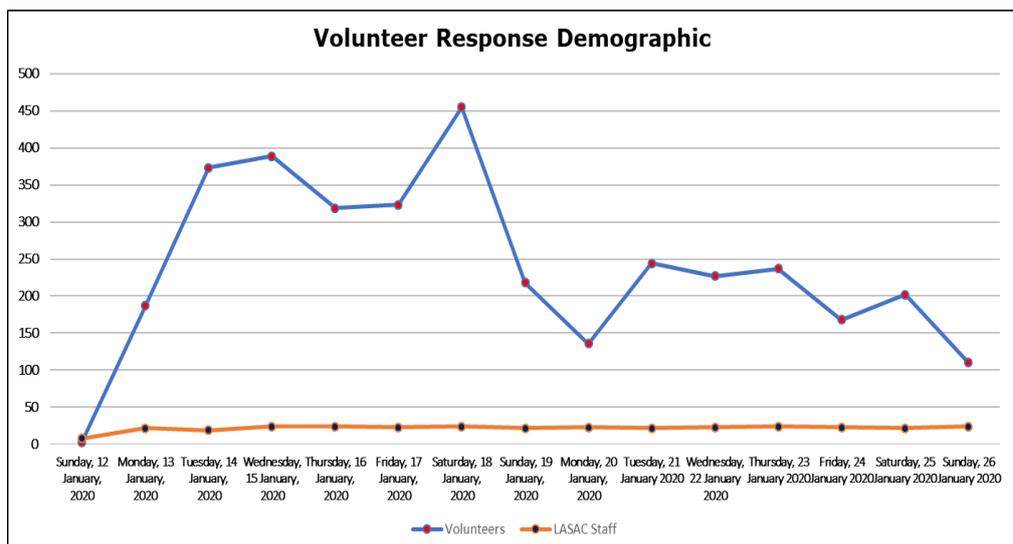
2. That there is the likelihood occurrence of lahar, a destructive mudflow of stored volcanic ash from high areas, during rainfall and in case of eruption, especially in the areas contiguous to Cavite and elevated areas in Agoncillo and Laurel;
3. That there are health hazards due to ashfall, as well as possible physical injuries and damage to properties due to unstable structures, slippery roads, fissures, unavailability of water and electricity and other related risks.

B. Rapid Assessment

- Per the Advisory Bulletin No. 2 of the Provincial Government of Batangas, classes in all secondary and primary schools (private and public) are suspended until further notice.
- Continuous operation and maintenance of evacuation centers shall be sustained and improved despite the return of evacuees to their respective towns and places. The complete aggregated data of both returnees and evacuees are still being validated with the provincial social welfare and development office.

C. Volunteer Management

- *Significant Decrease in Volunteer Response.* A significant decrease in trend was recorded, with one hundred ten (110) persons in attendance as compared to yesterday's two hundred two (202) volunteers.



This trend is also considered as the lowest since January 12 which may possibly be correlated with downgraded Alert Level by PHIVOLCS-DOST, along with the resume of classes in tertiary/college levels all over the province, except for those within the 7km danger zone.

II. Response

A. Incoming and Outgoing Relief

- In-kind relief has a monetized value of ₱16,064,367.80 while cash donations amounted to ₱7,248,671.16
- A total number of 234,467 individuals benefitted from the humanitarian efforts and relief services of the Archdiocese for over nine hundred (900) evacuation centers all over the province. Further categorized are the following:

Evacuation Category	Reliefs disbursed by RCAL for Individuals
Local Government	149,907
Archdiocese of Lipa	70,153
Interfaith and Interreligious	2,487
Private Organizations	11,920

B. Psychosocial intervention, liturgy and prayer

- Eucharistic celebrations are offered twice today, while Eucharistic adoration persists from 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 in the evening, along with the recitation of the rosary. These are well attended by lay volunteers, seminarians and members of the religious men and women of the Archdiocese.

III. Coordination

- The humanitarian response of the Archdiocese was made more efficient by the coordination and support of the following:
 - Colchester Catholic Filipino Community
 - Bishop Pablo Virgilio "Ambo" David and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Caloocan
 - Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish of Antipolo, Rizal

IV. Pledges and Contributions

- In response to the expression of support and intent to help, along with the needs of the survivors and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Taal relief efforts, we encourage the donation of the following items:

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|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Rubber mats | 5. Thermal sleeping kits |
| 2. Ready-to-eat food packs | 6. N-95 masks |
| 3. Tents and shelter materials | 7. Nebulizer kits |
| 4. Medicines (anti-hypertension, cough remedies, antihistamine, anti-vertigo) | 8. Hygiene kits |
| | 9. Portalets |
| | 10. Water purifiers |
| | 11. Water containers |

V. Media and Communications

The Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc. (LASAC) continue to provide updates of the humanitarian response, entitled, "**Malasakit para sa Batangas**" through its social media accounts and website, while coordinating with the social communications commission of the archdiocese, along with other local and national broadcasting system.

To make massive the dissemination of information, an update from the command center shall be issued every three (3) hours on-air, per the latest communication with the Archdiocesan Social Communications Commission through Rev. Fr. Ildefonso Dimaano.

The Catholic Media Network (CMN) and Veritas Radio 846 has likewise been in close coordination with the Archdiocese of Lipa, specifically with the Networking and Information Cluster of the Malasakit para sa Batangas Command Center for updates and information drive. The latter assures that news sources and situation reports are widely and massively disseminated.

VI. Key Contacts

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