CLASSROOM + CALAMITY = EVACUATION CENTER

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Every year, in times of disasters/calamities especially during rainy seasons, schools cater affected community people and serve as evacuation centers.

When a calamity hits an area, it does not exclude/excuse classrooms or any school buildings from damages. Affected schools also need to be rehabilitated and repaired immediately for the immediate resume of classes.

Using classrooms / schools as evacuation centers greatly affect many factors:

- Cleanliness and orderliness of the classrooms.
- Immediate rehabilitation/repair of the damaged schools/classrooms.
- Number of school days

Cleanliness and orderliness of the classrooms. Immediate cleaning and repair of the school is needed after a calamity. Teachers and other concern people in the community should help each other in cleaning the school to maintain its cleanliness and orderliness in order to resume classes immediately.

Using schools as evacuation centers add more damages to the classrooms. Orderliness of the teaching materials, textbooks, and other school equipment is used improperly by evacuees, making the damages caused by calamities even worst.
Immediate rehabilitation/repair of the damaged schools/classrooms. In order to resume classes immediately after a disaster, immediate rehabilitation and repair of the damage classrooms/buildings is needed. How can you repair or rehabilitate the damaged school if it is used as evacuation centers?

Instead of repairing the damages, evacuees add more damages to the affected classrooms/schools.

Number of school days. Using the classrooms as evacuation centers will delay the rehabilitation and repair of the classroom which will also delay the resume of classes. As long as the evacuees stay in the school, the more days will be affected in the classes. In order to cope with the number of days in classes for the school year, make-up classes or extended classes are implemented.

Making schools as evacuation centers has many disadvantages to the schools, to the teachers as well as to its pupils/students. The government and the department concern must take immediate action regarding this matter.

References:

Educator, Magazine for Teachers, year 2011