EARTHQUAKE READINESS

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“Duck, cover and hold.” The three most vital words to contemplate during an earthquake.

Annually, the people from the Bureau of Fire Protection disseminates information of Do’s and Don’ts during an Earthquake attack to schools nationwide. The BFP in coordination with DepEd do earthquake drills within the campus amalgamating every school personnel, teachers and students to do the DCH Earthquake-Must Know. Everyone is then, gathered in a safe place to where the fire officers comprehensively deliberate the information everybody ought to know about earthquake- its nature, safety deterrents and survival actions during and after an attack.

School children actively participates in drills like this, yearly. They already know what to do when the megaphone siren starts to “wang-wang”, they’ll hurriedly go under a strong table and cover their heads mostly with books, as it stops, they’ll go the presumed “safe zone”, from there they will be fed with lots of information about earthquake attack. Some schools, do it realistically as they assigned students who will play as casualties. Some of them will have pseudo- bone fractures, phony difficulty of breathing episodes, fake abrasions with the use of catsup as blood, and sham bruises and contusions. To make it more truthful, teachers will theatrically perform first aid treatment and medication.

The purpose of the annual drill is to acquaint every member of the academe to the things they need not to do and do during a sudden shaking of the ground incident. In such a way, less if not zero casualties will be achieved. It is also very important for school children to know the must-knows during and after an earthquake, as it happens quickly
and unexpectedly without a warning. In situations like that, “iba ang may alam.” Being READY and KNOWLEDGABLE is always an edge for survival, not only for earthquakes per se but to every natural malady that may occur.

The armistice that the Fire Bureau and the Education Department mutually agreed on about EARTHQUAKE DRILL is something very expedient and pragmatic not only to the members of both departments but also to the whole society.