PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL NO LONGER SERVE AS EVACUATION CENTER

by:
Joaldean M. Apostol
Orani National High School Parang-Parang

In the Philippines, public schools are meant to be evacuation area when calamity struck in a certain barangay or town. Classrooms in second or third floor are the best place for the people who suffered natural disaster such as flash floods and landslide. Every barangay small or big has public elementary school or secondary school therefore, it is accessible and safe. However, the Secretary of Education Leonor Briones stated that buildings in public school will no longer used as evacuation area because it disrupts classes and may cause dangers to students. As the evacuees occupy the classrooms, students are studying in a makeshift classrooms such as tents and nipa house making students exposed to danger and harassments. Students may be exposed to harassment because there are so many adults sheltering in school and they may not be monitored by the guards nor the parents and teachers. In addition, some of the evacuees show no respect to the classroom they occupied. Some of them leave trashes such as human manure hidden in bookshelves, used diapers and pads and rotten food.

On the other hand, President Duterte asserted that schools may be used as evacuation center when life-threatening disaster is plundering the area and if there is no available structures such as gyms or multi-purpose centers that may protect the people.

Comparatively, if classrooms in public schools will no longer use as evacuation center, government must build multi-purpose centers to serve as temporary shelter for people who are affected by the typhoon or other calamities.
References:

https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1037957/schools-shouldnt-be-used-as-evacuation-centers-anymore-deped