

Republic of the Philippines  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION



CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER

NO. 42 \_\_\_\_\_ ;

Series of 1996

SUBJECT : UPDATED GUIDELINES ON THE SUSPENSION OF CLASSES IN THE TERTIARY LEVEL ON THE OCCASION OF TYPHOONS/STORMS, EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS, FIRES AND OTHER NATURAL AND/OR MAN-CAUSED CALAMITIES

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In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994," and in the interest of protecting tertiary students from harm, injury and/or damage wrought by typhoons/storms, earthquakes, floods, fires and other natural and/or man-caused calamities, the following guidelines on the suspension of classes in the tertiary level on the occasion of typhoons/storms, earthquakes, floods, fires and other natural and/or man-caused calamities are hereby adopted and promulgated, thus:

A. TYPHOONS/STORMS

1. When the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (hereinafter referred to as "PAGASA") raises Typhoon Signal No. 3 or above in a particular locality within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (for brevity, PAR), all classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, within the said locality shall be deemed automatically suspended without need of declaration from the Commission and/or any of its officials until PAGASA lowers the said Typhoon Signal(s);

2. In case PAGASA raises Typhoon Signal No. 2 or No. 1 only in a particular locality within our PAR, classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, shall not be suspended as a matter of policy. However, Presidents/Heads of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) within the said locality, may, at their own discretion, suspend all, some or any of their classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, until such time that the Typhoon Signal(s) shall have been lowered by PAGASA or until the weather improves;

*not a rule*

3. However, the aforementioned rules do not prevent the Chairman of the Commission and/or any of the Commission's Higher Education Regional Office (HERO) Directors from suspending classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, within a particular locality if in their opinion suspension is warranted because of inclement weather.

**B. HEAVY RAINS AND/OR FLOODS AND/OR EARTHQUAKES AND/OR OTHER NATURAL CALAMITIES**

In case of heavy rains and/or floods and/or earthquakes and/or other natural calamities affecting a particular locality which would render the holding of classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, impractical and dangerous to the students concerned, the subject Presidents/Heads of the HEIs may declare a suspension of classes.

The Chairman of the Commission and/or any of the Commission's HERO Directors may do so likewise *motu proprio*.

**C. FIRES AND/OR OTHER MAN-CAUSED CALAMITIES**

In case of fires and/or other man-caused calamities in a particular locality which would make the holding of classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, impractical and dangerous to the students concerned, the Presidents/Heads of the HEIs affected by the said man-caused calamities may suspend any, some or all classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, as their discretion may deem appropriate.

It is understood, however, that the Chairman of the Commission and/or any of the Commission's HERO Directors may likewise suspend classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, as the need arises.

**D. "CALAMITY" PROPORTIONS**

In any case, however, if the force majeure, act of God, accident and/or event has reached "calamity" proportions in a particular locality, that is, it is such as to seriously disturb the normal pace and peace and quiet of the community and affects the greater number of the residents therein exposing gravely their lives, persons and/or property, classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, shall be *ipso facto* suspended until normalcy returns.

The declaration of resumption of classes shall be made by the Chairman of the Commission and/or any of the Commission's concerned HERO Directors.

#### E. "NON-CALAMITY" PROPORTIONS

If the force majeure, act of God, accident or event does not amount to "calamity" proportions but in the opinion of the President/Head of the HEI concerned, tertiary students could not attend classes without endangering their lives, persons or property, classes in the tertiary level, including graduate and post-graduate, may be suspended by the President/Head of the HEI concerned until the disappearance of the force majeure, act of God, accident and/or event.

#### F. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUSPENSION OF CLASSES

The announcement of the suspension of classes, where appropriate, should be made not later than five o'clock in the morning (5:00 AM) of the day when the suspension is to take effect using all available means of information dissemination, especially the tri-media, amateur radio communications networks and the DILG/PNP radio system(s).

The Presidents/Heads of the HEIs suspending classes as herein provided for should immediately inform the Commission and/or any of its HEROs of the fact of suspension.

#### G. RESUMPTION OF CLASSES

As a general rule, the person and/or entity that declared the suspension of classes as herein provided for shall likewise declare their resumption utilizing also all means of information dissemination, except when the Chairman of the Commission and/or any of its HERO Directors exercise their right of pre-emption and announce the resumption of classes.

#### H. EFFECT OF SUSPENSION OF CLASSES IN THE TERTIARY LEVEL ON THE TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL OF HEIS

As to the teaching and non-teaching personnel of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and of CHED-supervised Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs), the following shall be observed, thus:

1. Teaching personnel shall not report for work when classes in the tertiary level are suspended but shall conduct make-up classes to recover for lost time; and
2. Non-teaching personnel shall continue to render service even when classes in the tertiary level are suspended unless the government, through its appropriate agency, has declared otherwise.

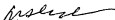
As to those who are connected with Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs), the continuance of the services of the teaching and non-teaching personnel on the occasion of the suspension of classes in the tertiary level shall depend upon the discretion of the PHEI Presidents/Heads concerned.

**I. EFFECTIVITY**

These updated guidelines shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force and effect until otherwise revoked.

**SO ORDERED.**

Pasig City, Philippines, July 31, 1996

  
**ANGEL C. ALCALA**  
Chairman

  
**MONA D. VALISNO**  
Commissioner

  
**KATE C. BOTENGAN**  
Commissioner

  
**ESTER A. GARCIA**  
Commissioner

*out of town*  
  
**ROLANDO S. DELAGOZA**  
Commissioner

Copy Furnished:

All HEIs (SUCs,  
CHEIs and PHEIs)

All HEROs

All CO Directors and  
Asst. Directors

All Tertiary Student Governments/  
Councils

Tri-Media