

EL NIÑO: THE NEW FOE OF DEPED

by:

Abegail M. De Guzman

Teacher II, Orani National High School - Main

Humans have a limit, specifically in terms of physical state. A good body means good work, and a good environment means good performance. However, when extreme heat is felt, the human body can be at risk.

The Philippines is one of the countries in Asia that is known for its two seasons: the rainy season, which occurs in the months of June to November, and the dry season, which occurs in the months of December to May. However, due to climate change and global warming, the two aforementioned seasons have become more intense than usual. Recently, in the report of UNTV News and Rescue, it was apprised that PAGASA raised a warning that the possible occurrence of El Niño by May is now at 70%-80%, and it is certainly alarming. In this phenomenon, several health issues may transpire. For that, various departments, commonly the Department of Education, are affected. Many teachers, students, and parents expressed their complaints, particularly about the deficiency of school appliances like electric fans or cooling fans.

As for the acknowledgment and action in the extreme heat that is currently happening, DepEd allows suspension of classes through the means of DepEd Order 037, Series of 2022, that “promotes the safety and protection of learners and personnel from unnecessary physical dangers that they may be exposed to during natural disasters and calamities. This is to ensure that their constitutional rights to life, health, safety, and property are always protected”. The Department of Education issues these Guidelines on the Cancellation of Suspension of Classes and Work in Schools in the Event of Natural Disasters, Power Outages or Power Interruptions, and Other Calamities to further guide

schools, their personnel, and learners, both within public and private institutions. The DepEd has also promoted implementing modular distance learning (MDL) instead. Some public and private schools also take action to show concern by executing alternate and half-day schedules to reduce the heat and health risks the students may experience.

El Niño is a phenomenon that no one can stop. Nevertheless, creating and implementing action to ensure the safety of individuals is simple. Indeed, education is a treasure, but health is wealth.

References:

UNTV News and Rescue (2023). Possibility of El Niño Occurrence now at 70%-80%.

<https://youtu.be/7YaGLnCwzi0>

Deped O. S. (2022). <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2022/09/01/september-1-2022-do-037-s-2022-guidelines-on-the-cancellation-or-suspension-of-classes-and-work-in-schools-in-the-event-of-natural-disasters-power-outages-power-interruptions-and-other/>