



DBA5-7FEB2012

AN OCCASIONAL INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, NATURAL DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

877 EDSA, West Triangle, Quezon City  
Tel No. (02) 426-1729 Email: nationaloffice@uccp.org.ph

# DISASTER BULLETIN ALERT

## QUAKE HITS NEGROS

A 6.9 - magnitude earthquake hits Negros, including neighboring islands of Cebu and Iloilo, causing widespread panic to people inside shaking office buildings, schools and malls as they dash for safety in open spaces. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Philvocs), the earthquake that sent shocks along the West Visayas Region around noontime yesterday has its epicenter registered near Tayasan town in Negros Oriental.

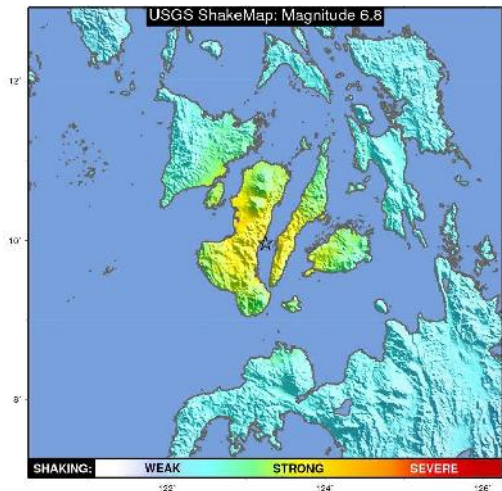
Corollary to the earthquake incident, the Philvocs yesterday issued a tsunami warning that sent residents of towns along the shorelines to scamper for safety on elevated grounds. Also, early this afternoon, the Philvocs has recorded 900 aftershocks in relative degrees. Government authorities, however, cautioned the people to brace for more aftershocks. Classes were declared suspended at all levels to avoid more casualties.

Landslides and other soil movements, like huge, gaping cracks, caused damage on highways and houses. Seven bridges were damaged and were rendered impassable, hampering the movement disaster response from concerned agencies. Hardest hit areas include the towns of Tayasan, Jimalalud, Guihulngan, La Libertad and Ayungon. A high number of casualties were reported from these towns especially in those areas along the shoreline.

In Guihulngan, 29 people are reported dead due to landslide. As of presstime, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) of the government has recorded a total of 52 people dead as more remains unaccounted.

The earthquake also damaged government infrastructures like municipal buildings. Even the UCCP local church in Jimalalud collapsed, according to a report from UCCP Conference Minister Hope Rambuyon.

UCCP disaster response teams from the two conferences in Negros are currently dispatched to disaster stricken areas for data gathering, monitoring and assessment of the extent of damage brought by the recent earthquake. Despite difficulty in communication due to momentary cut off of service lines, all judicatory levels of the UCCP are currently coordinating to come up with the appropriate response/intervention in the aftermath of the disaster.



*Map showing magnitude and epicenter of earthquake in the West Visayas islands*



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### SOME IMAGES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN NEGROS

*(Photo credits: AFP, Mark Aranas, Hulugway ug Kasikas sa Dumaguete)*



Photo: AFP

