



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13
Series of 2024

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AN EXECUTIVE ORDER PROVIDING FOR GUIDELINES AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR THE DANGEROUS HEAT INDEX BROUGHT ABOUT BY EL NIÑO IN ORIENTAL MINDORO

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the *Local Government Code of 1991* states that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare.

WHEREAS, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) El Niño-Southern Oscillation (hereinafter, "ENSO" or "El Niño") Advisory No. 10 reveals way below normal rainfall condition in Oriental Mindoro.

WHEREAS, the Heat Index Monitoring and Forecast Information released by the DOST-PAGASA for the past days reported high heat index in the province. Prolonged exposure to dangerously high temperatures may cause heat-related illnesses, such as heat cramps, exhaustion, and heat stroke.

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish guidelines and precautionary measures against the dangerous heat index experienced by the province.

NOW THEREFORE, I, HUMERLITO A. DOLOR, MPA, Ph.D., by virtue of the power vested in me as Provincial Governor by Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the *Local Government Code of 1991*, do hereby promulgate this Executive Order, as follows:

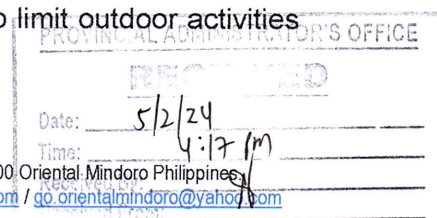
SECTION 1. General Precautionary Measures. The public is hereby reminded to undertake the following precautionary measures against the extreme heat experienced due to the El Niño:

- Stay in well-ventilated areas;
- Limit time spent outdoors and activities to avoid direct exposure to sunlight;
- When outdoors, stay in shaded areas and use hand fans, umbrellas, and sunlight protecting clothes/accessories, such as hats and protective sunglasses;
- Schedule strenuous activities/exercise during nighttime or when the temperature is cooler;
- Drink plenty of water;
- To prevent the occurrence of fires and explosions, ensure that electrical equipment and appliances are checked for faulty wirings and defects;
- Wear light, breathable, and comfortable clothing at all times; and
- Keep up with the regular update on the local heat index and learn basic knowledge and first aid response for heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses and emergencies.

SECTION 2. Precautionary Measures in Schools. To avoid the adverse effects of the extreme heat/ El Niño, schools are enjoined to implement the following measures:

- Avoid outdoor classroom activities. Learners shall be reminded to limit outdoor activities to avoid direct exposure to sunlight;¹

¹ Deped Memorandum OUOPS No. 2024-04-02477, dated 1 April 2024



- b. Implement shortened classes,² schools may also consider the adjusting of classes into various shifts/groups to prevent overcrowding in the classrooms;
- c. Implement applicable learning delivery modalities as necessary to ensure continuity of learning from the suspension of in-person teaching to other learning modalities;³
- d. Ensure proper ventilation of classrooms and other facilities,⁴ through the provision of electric fans and air coolers;
- e. Ensure there is enough supply of water in the school and encourage learners and personnel to drink more water and to bring their personal tumblers and/or water containers to school;⁵
- f. Inspect classroom conditions, including ventilation, overcrowding, presence of trees, and other related factors which may have an effect on the heat to be experienced inside the classroom;⁶
- g. Inform learners and personnel on the symptoms of heat exhaustion and other heat illnesses and instruct them to immediately report experiencing said symptoms;⁷ and
- h. Monitor status of learners and teachers for possible symptoms of heat stress and other heat-related illnesses and emergencies.

SECTION 3. Authority to Suspend Classes and Shift to Modular Distance Learning. School heads/administrators of public schools are vested with the authority to decide the suspension of face-to-face classes and shift into modular distance learning. The Department of Education (DepEd) Office of the Undersecretary for Operations (OUOPS) Memorandum No. 2024-04-02477 provides that:

"Moreover, school heads are reminded of their authority and responsibility, to suspend in-person classes and implement modular distance learning in cases of unfavorable weather environment such as, but not limited to, extreme heat which poses health risks hindering learning and productivity.

Furthermore, it is also reiterated that the teaching and non-teaching personnel shall not be required to report to work except those who are mandated to render security, safety, finance, engineering, sanitation, health, and disaster response duties. Schools, on the other hand, must always be ready to implement remote work with measured output as stipulated in DO [DepEd Department Order No.] 37, s. 2022." (Underscoring supplied)

The modality of learning to be employed in Catholic Schools shall depend on the discretion of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan Parochial Schools (AVCPS). While the modality of learning in non-Catholic private schools shall be judiciously determined by their respective principal, school heads, or administrators.

Nonetheless, parents and/or guardians of students have the responsibility in determining whether their children should attend classes, taking into consideration the latter's physical and mental health.⁸

For higher education institutions (HEIs), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 15, Series of 2012, states that, "*Classes at the collegiate level, including graduate school, may be cancelled or suspended at the discretion of the local chief executives of Local Government Units and/or heads of HEIs if special circumstances in their area such as flooding, road damage, etc. warrant it. HEIs are also advised to monitor National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) announcements where disasters and calamities are present.*"

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Section 4 DepEd MIMAROPA Regional Memorandum No. 042-2024

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ DepEd Order No. 037, Series of 2022, dated 1 September 2022

CMO No. 09, Series of 2022 also provides that, “*it is at the discretion of the HEIs to choose which learning modalities they should operationalize, as long as there will be continuity of learning under any flexible learning modality. HEIs shall institute/implement the necessary mechanism so that students who cannot participate in the conduct of the face-to-face classes shall not be prejudiced.*” (Underscoring supplied)

In view of the foregoing, schools and HEIs may refer to the Heat Index Effect-based Classification employed by the PAGASA in determining the modality of learning they will implement and in the declaration of class suspensions due to high temperature:

Effect-based Classification	Effects on the Body
27°C - 32°C Caution	Fatigue is possible with prolonged exposure and activity. Continuing activity could lead to heat cramps.
33°C - 41°C Extreme Caution	Heat cramps and heat exhaustion are possible. Continuing activity could lead to heat stroke.
42°C - 51°C Danger	Heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely. Heat stroke is probable with continued exposure.
52°C and beyond Extreme Danger	Heat stroke is imminent.

SECTION 4. Precautionary Measures in the Workplace. Employers shall assess every worker’s risk exposure to the extreme heat experienced in their respective post/work areas, especially those with existing comorbidities. The following measures may be implemented:

- a. Elimination of heat and humidity in workplaces through effective ventilation and heat insulation in all areas;
- b. Adjustment of rest breaks or work locations to allow recovery from heat exposure;
- c. Provision of temperature-appropriate uniforms and personal protective equipment to workers exposed to extreme heat;
- d. Provision of free and adequate drinking water at the workplace with a directive for drinking at least two (2) to three (3) liters a day.⁹

SECTION 5. Alternative Work Schedules. Flexible/Alternate work arrangements may be adopted in workplaces, in the government and private sector. The transition into alternative/flexible work schedule shall be subject to the discretion of the head of the government agency/private institution and the applicable civil service and labor laws and issuances. For government agencies, Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 06, Series of 2022 shall apply.

On the other hand, private institutions and employers shall adhere to pertinent issuances of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Employers and their workers may agree to adopt a flexible work arrangement to limit exposure to extreme heat and strenuous activities, by adjusting the work hours while maintaining the total number of work hours within the day or week until such time that the weather condition has improved.¹⁰

Government agencies and private institutions shall assess their respective workers and workplaces and formulate guidelines and precautionary measures to be observed during the El Niño.

SECTION 6. Wearing of Uniforms. To alleviate the effects of extreme heat, especially in non-airconditioned schools, learners and teachers may wear light and comfortable clothes appropriate for school.¹¹ Schools are encouraged to suspend the wearing of long-sleeved shirts and gala uniform during the El Niño Season.

The DepEd also allows their teaching and non-teaching personnel to wear alternate uniforms in view of the extreme heat experienced in the country.¹²

Heads of government agencies and employers are enjoined to liberalize policies on wearing uniform and allow their employees to wear appropriate comfortable clothing in the workplace.

⁹ DOLE Labor Advisory No. 08, Series of 2023, dated 5 April 2023
¹⁰ Ibid.
¹¹ Section 4 (e) DepEd MIMAROPA Regional Memorandum No. 042-2024
¹² DepEd Memorandum DM OUHROD-2024-0062

As much as practicable, employees exposed to extreme heat and direct sunlight may be provided with temperature-appropriate uniforms and personal protective equipment, such as hats, goggles with protection against ultraviolet rays and clothes made from light materials.¹³

Heads of government agencies, in consultation with their employees, shall have discretion in determining and implementing the appropriate office attire of their respective officials and employees.¹⁴

SECTION 7. Conduct of Flag Ceremonies and other Outdoor Activities. It is recommended that flag ceremonies, events, and activities be carried out in roofed locations with proper ventilations.

As much as practicable, outdoor activities and events, especially those involving strenuous physical activities, shall be scheduled in nighttime or during times of the day when the temperature is cooler.

Shaded areas shall be available for those who need to rest during the conduct of outdoor activities. Organizers and persons in-charge of outdoor activities and event shall ensure the availability of emergency medicines, first aid kits, enough supply of water, and safety officers for the activity.

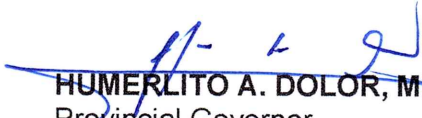
SECTION 8. Dissemination of Information Campaigns. Public information campaigns shall be regularly conducted to inform the public of the precautionary measures against the extreme heat. Said information campaigns shall include the proper response and first aid to be administered during emergencies, such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. Other issuances inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby repealed, amended, and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Executive Order is declared invalid for any reason, the parts not affected shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

DONE IN THE CITY OF CALAPAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO, this 2nd day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.


HUMERLITO A. DOLOR, MPA, Ph. D.
Provincial Governor

¹³ Section a (3) DOLE Labor Advisory No. 08, Series of 2023

¹⁴ Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 14, Series of 2001, dated 31 May 2001