

The pressing of the alarm button was done at 8:32AM by guests headed by no less than Department of National Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro. Government officials who joined Sec. Teodoro were MGen. Glenn J. Rabonza (ret) (Office of Civil Defense Administrator and National Disaster Coordinating Council Executive Officer), VAdm. Wilfredo C. Tamayo (Philippine Coast Guard Commandant), Dir. Renato U. Solidum, Jr. (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology), Dir. Thelsa Buelina (Department of Social Welfare and Development, NCR), and Dir. Teresita Domalanta (Department of Education, NCR).

After the drill, “rescue operations” was orchestrated by the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) of the local government of Quezon City meant to showcase their response capability in case of disaster.

A short program commenced right after the drill and rescue operations. The keynote speaker, DND Secretary Teodoro was introduced by Dir. Domalanta. In his speech, Secretary Teodoro talked thanked everyone for their cooperation and participation in the exercise. Dir. Solidum noted in his closing remarks that hopefully, earthquake drills must be sustained and practiced in the communities.

The simultaneous national earthquake drill is conducted quarterly in public elementary and secondary schools pursuant to a directive of Pres. Gloria M. Arroyo in 2006. It is a collaborative project among OCD, PHIVOLCS and DepEd.