



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN**

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**Division Advisory No. 006**, s. 2026

January 13, 2026

In compliance with D.O No. 08, s. 2013  
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,  
but only for the information of DepEd SDO Aklan officials, personnel/ staff,  
(Visit [www.depedaklan.online](http://www.depedaklan.online))

Attached are Regional Advisory No. 005, s. 2026, and Memorandum No. 101, s. 2025, from the Office of Civil Defense Regional Office VI, dated November 28, 2025, regarding the cancellation of the Gawad KALASAG Seal of Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and Humanitarian Assistance CY 2025 National Awarding and its associated activities due to the series of widespread disasters that have impacted the country.

For more information and inquiries, contact:

**RAUL E. FERNANDEZ**  
Chairperson, RDRRMC VI  
Regional Director  
Office of the Civil Defense VI  
Camp Martin Delgado, Iloilo City  
Email: [ocdrc6@gmail.com](mailto:ocdrc6@gmail.com)

NSATM/



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Población, Numancia, Aklan  
Tel/Fax No. (265 3740 | 265 3741 | 265 3743 | 265 3744)  
Website: [www.depedaklan.online](http://www.depedaklan.online)  
Email Address: [aklan.1958@deped.gov.ph](mailto:aklan.1958@deped.gov.ph)



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION VI-WESTERN VISAYAS

**Regional Advisory No. 005**, s. 2026

January 06, 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No.8, s.2013  
this Advisory is issued for the information of DepEd Region VI  
officials, and personnel/staff, and all others concerned  
(Visit [region6.deped.gov.ph](http://region6.deped.gov.ph))

**CANCELLATION OF THE GAWAD KALASAG SEAL OF EXCELLENCE IN  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT(DRRM) AND  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CY2025 NATIONAL AWARDING  
AND ITS ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES DUES TO THE SERIES  
OF WIDESPREAD DISASTERS THAT HAVE  
IMPACTED THE COUNTRY**

Attached is Memorandum No. 101, s. 2025 from the Office of the Civil  
Defense Regional Office VI dated November 28, 2025, on the Cancellation of  
the Gawad KALASAG Seal of Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and  
Management (DRRM) and Humanitarian Assistance CY2025 National  
Awarding and its associated activities due to the series of widespread  
disasters that have impacted the country.

For more information and verification, contact:

**RAUL E. FERNANDEZ**  
Chairperson, RDRRMC VI  
Regional Director  
Office of the Civil Defense VI  
Camp Martin Delgado, Iloilo City  
Email: [ocdrc6@gmail.com](mailto:ocdrc6@gmail.com)

W MV/ESSD-RA/Cancellation of the Gawad KALASAG Seal of Excellence  
165/December 26, 2025



Address: Duran Street, Iloilo City, 5000  
Telephone Nos: (033) 337-0149  
Email Address: [region6@deped.gov.ph](mailto:region6@deped.gov.ph)  
Website: [region6.deped.gov.ph](http://region6.deped.gov.ph)



Certificate No. PHP QMS



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
**REGIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
REGION VI - WESTERN VISAYAS  
CAMP MARTIN TEOFILO B. DELGADO, FORT SAN PEDRO, ILOILO CITY, PHILIPPINES  
TELEFAX: (033) 5110680 / 09491806115  
EMAIL ADD: region6@ocd.gov.ph; ocdrc6@gmail.com



14 November 2025

**MEMORANDUM**  
No. 101, s. 2025



**TO: VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND MEMBERS, RDRRMC  
CHAIRPERSON, P/C/MDRRMCs  
ALL STAKEHOLDERS**

**SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF THE GAWAD KALASAG SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM) AND  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CY2025 NATIONAL AWARDING AND ITS  
ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES DUE TO THE SERIES OF WIDESPREAD**

This is in reference to NDRRMC Memorandum Circular No. 06, s. 2025 dated 12 November 2025 regarding the Cancellation of the Gawad KALASAG Seal for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and Humanitarian Assistance CY2025 National Awarding and its associated activities due to the recent series of major disasters affecting the country.

In line with the said Memorandum Circular, the 25th Gawad KALASAG Regional Awarding and its associated activities in Western Visayas is likewise **CANCELLED**.

Rest assured that the assessment results for the 25th Gawad KALASAG Seal and Special Awards will be provided through a simple feedbacking activity to be scheduled on a later date.

For clarifications and inquiries, you may coordinate with our Policy Development and Planning Section staff Hyacinth J. Menicable / Regin Joice D. Marterio at telephone numbers stated above or email at [rdrmc6secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:rdrmc6secretariat@gmail.com).

  
**RAUL E. FERNANDEZ**  
Chairperson, RDRRMC VI  
Regional Director, OCD



12 NOV 2025

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

No. 16, s. 2025

**TO :** Members, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC);  
Chairpersons, Regional DRRMCs;  
Metro Manila DRRMC;  
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao DRRMC;  
Provinces/Cities/Municipalities DRRMCs; and  
Other Concerned Offices

**SUBJECT :** CANCELLATION OF THE GAWAD KALASAG SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM) AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CY2025 NATIONAL AWARDING AND ITS ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES DUE TO THE SERIES OF WIDESPREAD DISASTERS THAT HAVE IMPACTED THE COUNTRY

**REFERENCES:** (Annex-A)

- a. Verbal instructions from the Secretary of National Defense (SND);
- b. NDRRMC Memorandum No. 03, s. 2025;
- c. NDRRMC NGKC Resolution No. 01 s. 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

Established in 1998, the Gawad KALASAG (KAlamidad at Sakuna LABanan, SARiling Galing ang Kaligtasan) also known as the GK Search for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Humanitarian Assistance has served as the country's recognition and award scheme for various stakeholders who promote and implement disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation (DRRM-CCA), and humanitarian assistance programs that protect and shield high-risk communities against extreme hazards and render them more capable of addressing their vulnerabilities. It was aimed as a mechanism to obtain sustained commitment and support by recognizing the exceptional contributions of DRRM practitioners in strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of various aspects of society and communities to disaster risks.

Based on past experiences and lessons learned, the Gawad KALASAG program was transformed into the Gawad KALASAG Seal and Special Awards for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Humanitarian Assistance and adopted a mandatory assessment of all Local Government Units, specifically Provinces, Cities, and Municipalities (PCM); and continued competition for critical institutions (Schools

and Hospitals), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); and special recognition for individuals and organizations.

The GK will cover the following: (1) GK Seal for Local DRRM Councils and Offices; GK Special Awards for (2) Best Civil Society Organizations, (3) Best People's Organization, (4) Best Volunteer Organization; (5) Best Higher Education Institution; (6) Best Private Organization; (7) Best Government Emergency Management and Response Team (GEMs); (8) Best Hospital; (9) Best School; (10) GK Special Recognition for Individuals and Organizations; and (11) Heroic Act for Individuals and Groups.

## RATIONALE

The Office of Civil Defense, through the Gawad KALASAG Secretariat, spearheaded the Review and Revision of the CY2025 Gawad KALASAG Guidelines, Checklist, and Toolkit and was attended by members of the National and Regional Validation and Selection Committees (N/RVSC) composed of representatives from relevant NDRRMC member agencies and partners. The same has concluded to harmonize the implementation processes, update assessment criteria, and address identified gaps and overlaps from the previous cycle. The deliberations resulted in the refinement of technical indicators, alignment of the LDRRMCO Toolkit with the approved NDRRM Plan 2020–2030, and the finalization of the CY2025 GK revised guidelines and instruments for full implementation during the current assessment year;

Following the adoption of the revised guidelines, the CY2025 Gawad KALASAG cycle progressed to the conduct of Regional and National Desk Evaluation and National Field Validations for both the Gawad KALASAG Seal for Excellence in DRRM and Humanitarian Assistance and the Gawad KALASAG Special Awards, with ongoing preparations for the Final Deliberation of Awardees and Joint Plenary Session including the National Awarding Ceremony underway as such as its associated activities to be conducted;

However, current year of 2025, the Philippines experienced multiple large-scale disasters, including Typhoons Kalmaegi (Tino), Fung-Wong (Uwan), Super Typhoon Ragasa (Nando), and a series of destructive earthquakes off Northern Cebu and Davao Oriental, causing extensive casualties, damage, and displacements nationwide, alongside heightened volcanic activities from Kanlaon, Taal, Mayon, and Bulusan;

In view of the foregoing disasters that have severely affected multiple regions across the country, the Secretary of National Defense (SND), in his capacity as Chairperson of the NDRRMC, has issued guidance on 11 November, 2025: to **CANCEL THE CONDUCT OF THE GAWAD KALASAG SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM) AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CY2025 NATIONAL AWARDING AND ITS ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES, RECOGNIZING THE URGENT NEED TO PRIORITIZE NATIONWIDE DISASTER RESPONSE, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, AND EARLY RECOVERY OPERATIONS.**

## PURPOSE

This Memorandum Circular is issued for widest dissemination for the **CANCELLATION OF THE CONDUCT OF THE GAWAD KALASAG SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM) AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CY2025 NATIONAL AWARDING AND ITS ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES, RECOGNIZING THE URGENT NEED TO PRIORITIZE NATIONWIDE DISASTER RESPONSE, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, AND EARLY RECOVERY OPERATIONS.**

The cancellation of the National Awarding likewise necessitates the deferral of the final deliberation and recognition activities for the CY 2025 GK cycle. The Office of Civil Defense will ensure that all data and results from the **REGIONAL AND NATIONAL VALIDATION ACTIVITIES ARE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED AND PROTECTED. FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THIS VALIDATION WORK WILL BE ISSUED IN A SUBSEQUENT ADVISORY.** The *N/RVSC* have already performed substantial work in conducting desk and field validations to determine the performance ratings and qualifications of participating LGUs and institutions. Hence, the deferment shall be implemented without prejudice to the integrity and results of these completed assessments, which will serve as the official basis for any succeeding recognition process and enhancement of the current Gawad KALASAG framework;

## FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Moreover, in alignment with the cancellation of the CY 2025 Gawad KALASAG National Awarding, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) shall redirect its full focus and resources toward ongoing disaster response, recovery, and rehabilitation efforts, as well as proactive preparedness for impending calamities. However, **OCD REGIONAL DIRECTORS ARE AUTHORIZED TO ORGANIZE SIMPLE, LOCALIZED CEREMONIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND COMMEND LGUS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM).** This recognition must be conducted independently of and without any formal linkage to the Gawad KALASAG Seal or its national awarding process.

The Gawad KALASAG Awards Program thru the Office of Civil Defense **WILL UNDERGO REVIEW AND REVISION TO ENSURE ITS CONTINUED RELEVANCE, APPROPRIATENESS, AND CONFORMITY WITH BEST PRACTICES, WITH THE INTENT OF DEVELOPING A NEW AND IMPROVED RECOGNITION SYSTEM TO BE PUBLISHED UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE NDRRMC FULL COUNCIL;**

## FOR COMPLIANCE

All Gawad KALASAG citations for plaques **SHALL NO LONGER BE INSCRIBED WITH THE WORDING OF "FULLY COMPLIANT" OR "BEYOND COMPLIANT," INSTEAD IT WILL BE REPLACED WITH THE WORDS "PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION: IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICE, COMMITMENT, SACRIFICE AND NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF VALIDATED LGUS AND ORGANIZATIONS AMIDST NATION'S DISASTER CHALLENGES;"**

## REPEALING CLAUSE

The provisions of NDRRMC Memorandum Circular No. \_\_\_ s. 2025, "CANCELLATION OF THE GAWAD KALASAG SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM) AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CY2025 NATIONAL AWARDING AND ITS ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES DUE TO THE SERIES OF WIDESPREAD DISASTERS THAT HAVE IMPACTED THE COUNTRY", and all other issuances inconsistent thereof are hereby repealed.

## EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon the approval of the Chairperson, NDRRMC, unless revoked or revised.

## APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION

This Memorandum Circular for the CANCELLATION OF THE CONDUCT OF THE GAWAD KALASAG SEAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM) AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CY2025 NATIONAL AWARDING AND ITS ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES, RECOGNIZING THE URGENT NEED TO PRIORITIZE NATIONWIDE DISASTER RESPONSE, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, AND EARLY RECOVERY OPERATIONS are hereby approved and thereby promulgated.

For guidance and compliance.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRPERSON, NDRRMC:

  
USEC HAROLD N. CABREROS  
Executive Director

