

## **KIWANIANS OF LUZON DISTRICT APPEAL FOR AID**

Philippines on 1 October 2009

### ***Report by Past Governor Stewart LaBrooy***

I was in Manila soon after the devastating typhoon struck the city and was fortunate to meet with the Governor Vicente Punay Jr and past Governor Boy Valencia to discuss the crisis and how ASPAC Nations could assist.

The damage to lives of many of the poor in Manila has been enormous and Kiwanians there are doing all they can to assist those in need. The priority now is the supply of food and water and for this they are needing funds. So far they are exhausting whatever disaster relief funds that they have and urgently need more aid from the rest of the world.



*Governor Vicente Punay Jr*

Even Governor Vicente was not spared. His home was severely damaged and his printing business was submerged in water effectively shutting down his business for months.

I ask that all Kiwanis allocate some funds from their service funds to help our fellow Kiwanians in Manila help their citizens in their time of need. Please send your donations to Kiwanis Malaysia stating it is for Typhoon Ketsana Fund. Bank in your donations at CIMB account # 1421-0008345-05-8 and fax or email the banking in slip marked "Typhoon Ketsana Fund"

A report from the affected areas follows.....

With toilets overflowing, water and power still out and mounds of rubbish rotting after the Philippines' worst flooding in decades, millions across the capital Manila and suburbs are under threat from disease outbreaks, officials warn. At the Concepcion Uno Integrated School in Marikina District, east of Manila, one of the areas worst hit, only three battered portable toilets were installed for more than 3,000 flood survivors.

School officials say they had to padlock six bathrooms because the toilets had clogged, and the waste was beginning to seep into the grounds where the survivors slept with only cardboard as matting.



*A Filipino mother feeds her child in an evacuation center during night time in a public school in Marikina City, eastern Manila*



*Filipinos sleep on chairs at an evacuation center in a public school in Marikina City, eastern Manila,*

With much of Manila's health infrastructure destroyed, the government has appealed to private doctors and health workers, including psychologists, to help survivors, especially children, cope with post traumatic stress.

Meanwhile, hungry survivors, frustrated by the slow pace of aid delivery, have been fighting over food and, in at least one instance, pelted an empty delivery truck that had just made its rounds, officials said.

"People are very, very hungry. Look at us, we are still covered in mud," said Jose Vidal, who heads camp management at Concepcion Uno, pointing to a group of half-naked boys picking through a pile of debris on the road.

"The level of frustration has been running high. People are emotionally unstable, hot-headed."

Mornings were especially challenging, as crowds jostle to fetch water delivered by fire trucks while others scrambled to use the toilets.

"This storm has wrecked too many lives. We don't know whether we can recover," Vidal told IRIN.

At another elementary school serving as an evacuation centre, Virgilio Mamalias tried to stop a group of men fighting over a box of clothes donated by private individuals.

Babies were lying on cold concrete floors, and no one from the national government had arrived to help organize the evacuees, who number about 2,000, residents claimed.

"I decided to take the initiative and try to keep the people here organized. We don't want to appear as if all norms of decency have gone away with the floods, but in this situation, when people are extremely hungry, fighting is bound to erupt. You need to have maximum tolerance," he said.

Nearby, his wife and two young children were huddled in a corner, sharing a small bowl of porridge distributed by a restaurant owner whose shop had been decimated. But the food was limited, and many children went without.



*Filipinos maneuver the flooded area caused by Storm Ketsana in Cainta suburbs, Rizal province, eastern Manila*



*Filipinos on top of their shanties cheer for Philippine Airforce chopper pass above them in flooded area caused by Storm Ketsana in Cainta suburbs, Rizal province*