



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
MUNICIPALITY OF SAINT BERNARD
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Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council

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World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011
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In 2006, one of the world's worst landslides hit the Philippines: this was the Guinsaunon landslide in the municipality of Saint Bernard. The disaster left in its wake 154 dead, 28 injured, 410 registered survivors and burying alive at least 1,200 people. The town has experienced other disasters in previous years and Saint Bernard was then unprepared for the magnitude of the Guinsaunon disaster. Under the able and transparent leadership of Mayor Rico C. Rentuza, its Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council was strengthened and made effective making the town resilient. Two years after the tragedy, the town received the prestigious national Gawad Kalasag Awards in 2008 and 2009, an annual Presidential Award given to cities/municipalities/province for the Best Exemplary Disaster Coordinating Council and for having the Best Contingency Plan and Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Risk Management Program. Despite the local government's limited funds, Mayor Rico Rentuza took a pro-active stance and was able to integrate resiliency programs in its local budget appropriation through the Executive-Legislative Agenda for inclusion in the annual budgeting. Mayor Rentuza was also successful in obtaining legislative support for the allocation of DRM/Disaster Preparedness despite belonging to the political minority.

Four years has passed and up to the present the local government of Saint Bernard is committed in making the town ready and disaster resilient together with its people and its key partners: CARE under the ACCORD and ASCEND projects; GTZ; Plan Philippines; the Philippine National Red Cross, among others.

It is for these reasons that through the campaign we are able to showcase and willing to share our good practices in building resilience. We also believe that we have achieved and would further improve our efforts based on the 'Ten-Point Checklist: Essentials for Making Cities Resilient'. Thus, the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council formally makes the following nomination:

Mayor Rico C. Rentuza
Local Government of Saint Bernard

for Resilient Cities Champion
for Resilient Cities Role Model

The local government of Saint Bernard with Mayor Rico C. Rentuza at the helm recently signed the "ISDR Certificate of Commitment to Disaster Resilience" on the occasion of the 'Strengthening Climate Resilience Workshop' in Bangkok, Thailand last July 2010 (please refer to separate attachment).

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/section/230_Philippinesstbernardcasestudy.pdf



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