

Strong Earthquake in Mindanao

Series of strong earthquake shook Mindanao in October 2019. Among those badly affected was North Cotabato province where our p2p partner Don Bosco Foundation for Sustainable Development is based.

1. Makilala town reported 98% devastation on series of strong earthquakes in October 16, 29 and 31 2019. The magnitude has been recorded 6.6.
2. FB Post of Khalil Angelo Gamela (son of Betsy of Don Bosco), November 1, 2019:
“We have lost everything, and we may lose even more.

Batasan has effectively been rendered a ghost town. With the imminent danger of landslides on the upper slopes, the villagers had to make the painful decision of moving out, possibly forever.

Some are camped out in Purok 1/Flortam along the highway, while most are camped out on the open Santos Land property in front of the municipal hall, along with families from different barangays. Still some have moved in with relatives in various neighboring towns (Our family is in Bansalan). Needless to say, conditions are far from ideal, but the local authorities are doing their best.



Let me relay the need for medicines, food, water, thermal wear, tents and tarps, ropes, cooking utensils, and portable toilets for the evacuees in Poblacion Makilala. Assistance can be coursed through the disaster operations center in the municipal hall. The teams are also outside as the hall has also sustained damage.

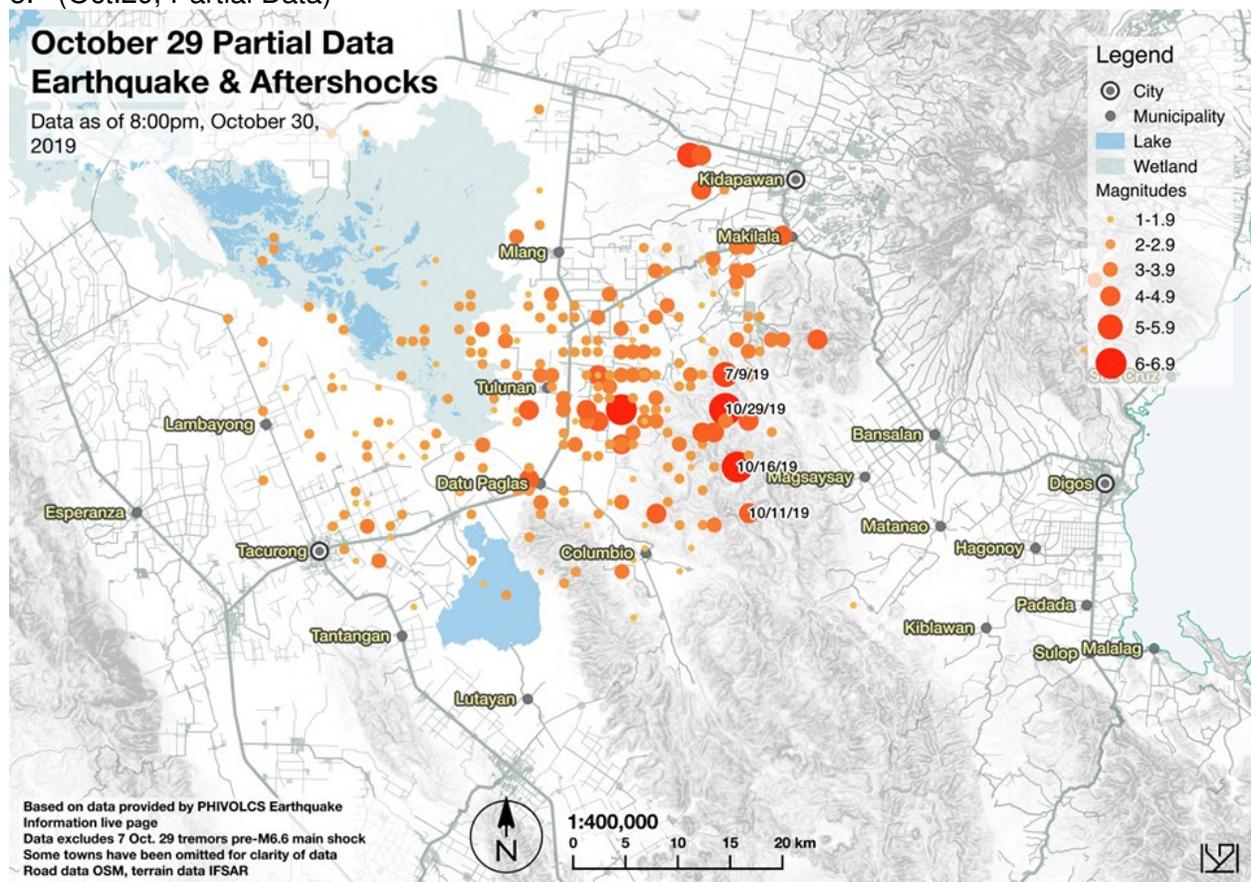
The people of Makilala and North Cotabato are appealing for your kindness and generosity. We hope you stay with us and stand with us in this time of great need.”

3. Don Bosco compound in Barangay Batasan (popularly called campsite) has been heavily damaged:





4. All Don Bosco staff were all accounted and safe. They were sent home to their respective home towns as the campsite was badly damaged.
5. (Oct.29, Partial Data)



The M6.6 earthquake on 9:00 am October 29 means I'll have to make a new running log. This map includes data from 9:00 am Oct. 29 to 8:00pm, Oct. 30. 263 individual tremors including the main M6.6 shock.

After finishing the map I have counted around 10 more aftershocks, so this is far from over. Data provided by Phivolcs through their Earthquake Information live page.

NOTE: Phivolcs only provides coordinates in degrees (e.g. 6.76°N, 125.04°E), so there is a degree of variability with regard to the actual epicenters. Anyway these are just epicenters, and not the actual hypocenters of the tremors.

ALSO NOTE: This map uses location data provided by Phivolcs to the public via their information portals; I simply translate these into visualized form, ergo anybody with basic GIS skills can generate the same datasets.

Map prepared using QGIS 2.8.4.

6. Some areas have reported cases of liquefaction (Loose soil taking properties of fluid due to shaking motion)



7. Barangay Batasan, Makilala





8. Pictures of affected people. Batasan (being a mountain village) have almost been a ghost-town because residents went down to low portions in the town proper.



9. Don Bosco Foundation, Biodynamis /Don Bosco Coop, and other NGO quickly organized "surgical" aid operations even though themselves were victims. They are based on Basalan town in Davao Sur to hard-to-access affected barangays including in Makilala.



FB post dated November 3, 2019:

“The HUMAN RESPONSE 98% DEVASTATION OF MAKILALA + OTHER MUNICIPALITIES DUE TO EARTHQUAKE SERIES OCT 16, 29 and 31 (INTENSITY 8 BASED ON EXPERIENCE ON THE GROUND AND" FLYING")”.

We are operating an independent relief operation without the bureaucratic ek-ek. Our base is Pazzu Medical Clinic in Bansalan, Davao Sur. WE grouped together: Bios Dynamis /Don Bosco Coop, Don Bosco Foundation for Sustainable Development, Batasan Multipurpose Cooperative, Pazzu Medical Clinic, KabalikatCivicom Makilala, MENRO Office). We do surgical distribution especially to areas where until now, NO aid has come. We are from Batasan , we are also victims BUT we choose to be victors. We are also helping Batasan but there are other areas, NOT on TV, not good for publicity and Facebook BUT in dire need of help, very hungry and sick . Food is number 1, Trapal also but seeing how people are getting sick lying on plastic laid on wet ground due to rain, INSULATORS will keep them better from the cold of the ground. If you TRUST us, send your goods, bring your goods, if not send your donation to us through Western Union, M Lhullier or Palawan Express or LBC. BUT if you want full accounting and other photo docs, come with us on field or give them to govt agencies which take the bureaucratic route. We are afraid a repeat of Yolanda where many stocks arrived but NOT distributed because of bureaucratic snags. It will take longer for international aid to reach the ground. Until now there are only LISTS but nothing yet. Hangganggayon list pa langgihapon, hulat pa langgihaponmgatao ,gutomna kayo.

So far we have distributed more than 200 bags already of rice repacked plus canned goods, dried fish, meds, eggs, hygiene packs, etc. from the stocks of our collapsed Batasan Multipurpose Cooperative and from friends from South Cotabato and Sarangani and other private donors. Since our banks are closed , if you send money send it to the persons we assigned for the purpose: Khalil Angelo R Gamela 09955118607 and/or John Paul Oñez 09093140400 (check their fb if you want to verify who they are). The pledges for 200 bags rice from friends and supporters who trust us are coming tomorrow (no driver today). Times of crisis will show either the best or the worst in us. This crisis is an opportunity offered to us to be FULLY HUMAN, let us rise to the occasion. Love and Cosmic Light be with us all.”

Credit: most info are coming from fb posting of Khalil Gamela...

Prepared by
Ray Tenefrancia
Altertrade Philippines Inc.
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines
November 11, 2019