

# On the road to saving lives

## The PHILIPPINE EMS SYSTEM

Faith Joan C. Mesa-Gaerlan, MD, MS, FPCEM  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Manila Doctors Hospital



# The Banawe Rice Terraces THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

Women  
tend to  
the land







# PGH EMS



# PHILIPPINE EMS: AN EVOLUTION



**1970's**

emergence of ambulance services: extensions of hospital service.

Initiatives from local chief executives and NGOs to purchase transport vehicles for health emergencies.

**1986**

Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation (ERUF) of Cebu expanded its EMS services to include safety promotion, disaster preparedness and the inclusion of Barangay Disaster Brigades.

Lifeline Arrow was established, a conglomerate of private hospital groups which caters to class A and B patients and is connected to five tertiary hospitals in Metro Manila.



**1990s** – PGH, MMDA, BFP, ERUF, and Subic EMS units upgraded their ambulance fleets by purchasing Class III type 2 Ambulance units.

Quezon City ,PRC& Makati ambulance services with rescue capabilities to benefit constituents within their area of responsibility.





# Role of Red Cross in EMS

- First Responders for trauma, medical and other emergencies from the scene of incident to the medical facilities.
- Search and Rescue
- Water Search and Rescue



# Operation Center

- Receive/monitor information on emergency situation wherein coordination to the different chapters and deployment of response unit is made.
- Managed by Red Cross Staff and volunteers 24/7



• **Nerve Center** of the PRC which communicates to the 97 Red Cross chapters in the Philippines.

# Emergency Response Team

## Chapter - **Community-based:**

**Trained volunteers** that provide assistance and response in the event of emergencies at the grass root level as the extension arm of the Red Cross.

They are trained as community **first aiders** (its part of the holistic community response approach of the Red Cross).



# Necessity

November 1992 US pull-out



# Opportunity



# Self-Reliance



Equipment Upgrade



Establishment of  
E-911 System

# DAVAO 911



# Southern Philippines Medical Center







**Country's Financial District  
Urban Tourist Destination  
Population: 500,000**

**MAKATI  
COMMAND  
CONTROL and  
COMMUNICATION**



**MC<sup>3</sup>**





# Emergency Management System



Public Safety

Peace and Order

Security Management

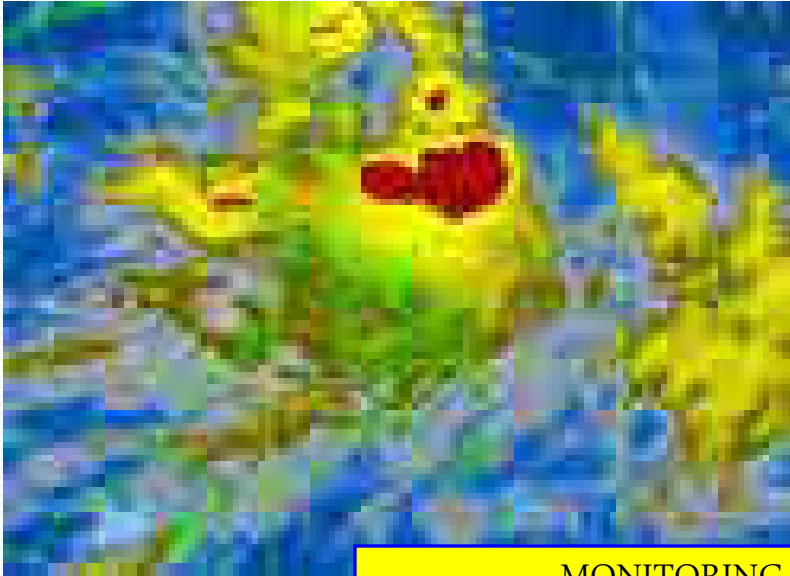
Health Emergency Management



Environmental Protection

Disaster Risk Reduction

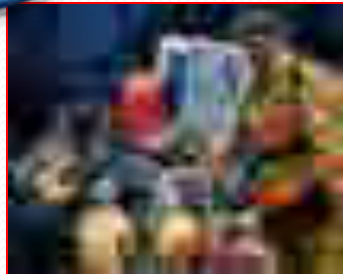
# Emergency Alert & Response System



MONITORING / REPORTING and ALERTING SYSTEM



# Dispatch of Resources



**TECHNICAL SEARCH & RESCUE**



**MEDICAL / HEALTH SERVICES**



**POLICE / K9 SERVICES**



**PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES**

**EMERGENCY**



**Dial 168**



**SWAT-EOD SERVICES**



**FIRE-RESCUE SERVICES**



**BARANGAY RESOURCES**



**BFP / SRU HAZMAT UNIT**

- **Only a handful of systems around the country coordinate transport effectively.**

**Often very little information sharing between hospitals and EMS re: emergency and trauma center patient loads or the availability of emergency department (ED) beds, operating suites, equipment, trauma surgeons, and critical specialists—information that could be used to balance the patient load among EDs and trauma centers in a region.**

- Ambulance Assistant /  
Medical First Responder
- Emergency Medical  
Technician – Basic
- Emergency Medical  
Technician –  
Defibrillation
- Emergency Medical  
Technician – Intermediate  
(I & I)
- Advanced Emergency  
Medical Technician
- Registered Paramedic –  
Degree Level



Due to the adherence to international standards, the PSEMT has achieved widespread recognition and based on PSEMT standards, **1,800 Filipino EMT's to date but also attracted foreign students from:**

- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- Denmark
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Canada




All are very pleased with the EMS training they have received in accordance with the “Philippine Standard”.

# SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?.

*“An act Institutionalizing  
An Emergency Medical  
Services System,  
Providing for the  
Establishment and Regulation  
of Professional Emergency  
Medical Technician Standards  
in the Country and for other  
purposes”*







**Allocate resources for the development of LGU-based EMS system with a common national standard.**