

By r.g antonet go

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has warned that areas near two fault systems in the city will experience a stronger intensity when an earthquake strikes.

Engr. Allan Rommel Labayog, PHIVOLCS Zamboanga City Science Research Analyst said that the Zamboanga Fault System falls in some portions of barangays Limpapa and Tagasilay.

A fault line is a break or fracture in the ground that occurs when the earth's tectonic plates move or shift and are areas where earthquakes are likely to occur.

“The nearer you are na fault line, the higher intensity tu sinti, (referring to earthquake)” Labayog said.

According to Labayog, there are communities in the area but they are far from the fault line.

He mentioned the Limpapa Elementary and National High School and Tagasilay Elementary School. He also assured that these schools do not need to evacuate.

“Lejos sila na fault line, but it does not mean lejos tu na fault line hende cuntigo tupa.” Labayog said.

Because of these, these schools must be careful and must have a higher level of preparedness and plan based on what hazards they have in their area.

He said however that communities normally tend to pop up where there are schools, thus resulting to an increase in the number of residents in the area.

Those who are planning to construct structures must thus consult experts, Labayog said.

Magnitude and intensity measure different characteristics of earthquakes. Magnitude measures the energy released at the source of the earthquake. Magnitude is determined from measurements on seismographs.

Intensity measures the strength of shaking produced by the earthquake at a certain location.

Earthquake is a geological hazard where there is the sudden movement of rocks below the earth's surface which could cause damage to property and even death. The city and the region are surrounded by two tectonic trenches, Sulu and Cotabato, which could trigger an earthquake and tsunami.

The last time the Sulu trench moved was on September 21, 1897, 1:15 p.m. with a magnitude 7.5 earthquake which caused a 6.0 meter tsunami while for the Cotabato trench, the last time it moved was on August 17, 1976, 12:11 a.m. with a magnitude 8.10 earthquake resulting to a 6.0 meter tsunami. (RGAAGo)