



Statement of the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, on the Landfall of Tropical Storm Tembin (Vinta)

03 January 2018, Jakarta.

The vulnerability of the ASEAN region is once again aggravated by the landfall of Tropical Storm Tembin (Vinta) in the Southern Philippine Island of Mindanao on 22 December 2017.

In my capacity as the Secretary General of ASEAN, I wish to convey our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of lives, the displacement of families and the severe damages to agriculture as well as infrastructure experienced by the affected communities in the Philippines.

As a caring and sharing community, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) reaffirm our commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of the people during such time of suffering – the end goal as envisaged in the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response.

We will continue to monitor the situation, avail ourselves the opportunity to support the on-going humanitarian and disaster-relief efforts, and help expedite the recovery work undertaken by the Government of the Philippines.

I also wish to commend the Government of the Philippines for their disaster preparedness strategy, immediate response efforts, as well as prompt humanitarian assistance and evacuation measures to support the people in the affected sites.

The landfall of tropical storm Tembin is one of many reminders of how development in the region remains susceptible to unprecedented risks. It is therefore incumbent upon us all to enhance the resilience of our communities through disaster risk reduction interventions, climate change adaptation strategies, as well as conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources.