

19:00, July 22, 2014

## **Central Emergency Operation Center Typhoon Matmo Press Release**

Cabinet Strategy Group

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### **President Ma Inspects the Central Emergency Operation Center**

#### **Orders Disaster Prevention Work to be Strengthened**

President Ma Ying-jiou is very concerned about disaster prevention preparations for Typhoon Matmo and made an inspection visit, accompanied by Premier Jiang Yi-huah and Center commander, Minister of the Interior Chen Wei-jen, at 19:00 today (22) to gain an understanding of disaster prevention and rescue work and to offer encouragement to staff; he also held a video conference with the commanders of emergency response centers in the cities/counties that are forecast to have the heaviest rainfall (Yilan County, Hualien County, Taitung County, Taichung City, Nantou County, Chiayi County, Kaohsiung City and Pingtung County) to obtain an understanding of disaster response preparedness. President Ma also informed the local governments that the central government will proactively offer support at the right time in the event their resources are insufficient.

President Ma said that Typhoon Matmo is the first typhoon to directly hit Taiwan this year and, at present, the whole island is in the warning area. There is a good chance that the typhoon will bring torrential rain and cause various kinds of damage to the north and northeast of Taiwan and he called on government agencies at various levels and the people to be sure to stay vigilant and to carry out disaster prevention preparations in good time. He said that, since Typhoon Morakot, local governments have carried out evacuation of at-risk residents before typhoons have struck and, by doing so, have clearly reduced the number of casualties. He said that it is very clear that this “preventive evacuation” is a really effective disaster prevention measure. He also called on the people of Taiwan to be on high alert and, if work and school are suspended tomorrow, to avoid going out if possible until the typhoon has passed to stay safe.