

Central Emergency Operation Center Typhoon Matmo Press Release

Cabinet Strategy Group

The Storm Circle Has Left Taiwan The Effect of Typhoon Matmo Diminishing

Data from the Central Weather Bureau (CWB) shows that the center of Typhoon Matmo is now to the north east of Kinmen and has already entered China. The storm circle is leaving Taiwan and is weakening, with rain easing across Taiwan, however, there is still a chance of heavy rain in south and central Taiwan. The Central Emergency Operation Center will remain on alert to accelerate recovery efforts and provide support to local governments.

The 5th work meeting was convened by Center commander, Minister of the Interior Chen Wei-jen, at 16:00 today (23), who said, after hearing analysis of the typhoon's future development, and about the disaster situation and recovery work, that the typhoon warning should be able to be lifted late this evening; however, rain will still fall in the mountains in Kaohsiung and Pingdong so related units should remain vigilant. With the concerted efforts of the central government, local governments and volunteers, he said, while some damage to crops has been suffered, thankfully only a small number of casualties have been reported; he thanked everyone for their efforts and gave the following instructions.

1. The CWB will continue to issue extremely torrential rain warnings for some cities and counties. He requested that the Ministry of Economic Affairs remind local government of the need to still guard against coastal flooding and to provide assistance with dealing with water that has not yet receded.

2. The Soil and Water Conservation Bureau is still issuing red and yellow warnings for debris flows on some cities/counties. He requested that the Ministry of the Interior keep in contact with local government and ensure that related work is carried out according to the regulations. The preventive evacuation of residents in Wanrong Township Hualian County proved effective in keeping people safe as, even though a debris flow crashed into houses, there were no casualties, a happy outcome that once again shows the necessity of preventive evacuation when the situation demands.

3. Due to the long period of rainfall, debris flows may occur. He called on all related personal to remain on guard and asked for people currently in shelters to wait until warnings have been lifted and roads have been repaired before going home.

4. He instructed the Transport Engineering Group to actively repair the small number of roads that are still blocked and for the road and bridge access and sea and air transport service situation to be kept abreast of and for the information to be issued promptly. A present, 65,686 households are still without electricity and 900 are without water. He asked the Lifelines Group to continue to supervise related business units so that repairs can be carried out as soon possible, with the precondition that they are done safely, to reduce inconvenience suffered by people.

5. With respect to crop losses in Hualian and Taidong counties, he asked the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Animal Husbandry Group to quickly inform the aforementioned county governments about the central government relief measures that farmers are keen to learn about and to provide public explanations at the right time. He also asked that the fruit and vegetable supply situation be monitored after the typhoon, instructing that price stabilization measures should be activated when needed to avoid price instability affecting people's lives.