

Seismic Season

Every year, to the beginning of the month June, the Dominicans get ready in order to receive the cyclonal season, that as a rule, it finishes at the end of November. Five months of intense activities around the probability that it whip us in strong rains, storms tropical or powerful hurricanes.

The means of communication promote their announcements of warning; the insurance companies, concerned for the well-being and security of their appreciated clients, place their publicity in the radio, television and newspapers with allusive information about the measures of caution to take.

Around the cyclonal season that begins about the first of June and ends on November 30 of every year, we all get ready. Besides, those five months are used to give life to the organisms of the State in charge of looking after the security of the citizens. They activate in such a way that in those five months begins to prove their operative capacity; and then to the closing of this period they fall in lethargy of seven months that, it is interrupted and reactivated by the Holly Week and the operative of December. In that dynamic, the authorities move in the arduous task of protecting the lives and goods of the citizens.



La Asociación Dominicana de Mitigación de Desastres (The Dominican Association of Mitigation of Disasters) (ADMD) values and recognizes all effort and action focused to the orientation of the people in the preparation and prevention during the called cyclonal season. But it also considers that we should meditate on the necessity of declaring all year in seismic season, without alarming to the population.

We express this view point convinced about that at any moment a regrettable phenomenon will happen. It has not to exist in our minds just the probability that it happens in an established date. We know that the "cyclonal season" occurs in a period determined by the climatic changes. However, there is a seismic season in the island that begins the first of January and lasts all year. Twelve months of constant seismic activities; with light movements of the earth that are almost always imperceptible for the population, but they are registered for the local institute of seismology and for entities of the region of the Caribbean (Puerto Rico) and USA.

During this current year, there were in the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, near our island and Puerto Rico, several seisms of magnitudes that go from 2 to 7 in the scale of Richter. Those movements happen frequently because our island is located in the tectonic structure of the Caribbean. Therefore we should help our people to understand that is normal and natural that earthquakes occur the same as the hurricanes.



One phenomenon is meteorological, and the other geological. The natural meteorological phenomenon (hurricane) guards one difference from occurrence of the geologic phenomenon (earthquake). While one happens during a period, the other could happen at any moment of the year, no matter the conditions of the whether, that is to say, it could be raining or sunny. That reality warns us that during all year the population should be prepared, since we are permanently in seismic season.

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