

July 30, 2021

MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR., CESO III

Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, and Director
Forest Management Bureau, DENR
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100

Dear **Assistant Secretary Amaro**:

This pertains to the letter dated July 28, 2021, addressed to yours truly, which was forwarded to this Office, in response to our inquiry on the requirements being imposed by the DENR field office in Palawan, specifically from CENRO Puerto Princesa over the movement of bamboo products, particularly, sawali from Puerto Princesa City to Manila, for processing.

The Council assents the regulation of planting, harvesting, and transport of bamboo poles in its original form as covered by the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 1994-07 dated February 17, 1994 or the *Revised Guidelines Governing the Issuance of Certificate of Origin for Logs, Timber, Lumber and Non-timber Forest Products*, and so being subjected to necessary transport documents; and the exclusion of processed bamboo products, such as sawali, from the provisions of the said policy. In order to avoid confusion in transactions involving the shipment of bamboo nationwide, there is a need for your Office to clearly acknowledge, confirm, and be clearly specific that the present DAO No. 1994-07 covers only the transport of Round Bamboo as a raw material and not bamboo products other than sawali like furniture, baskets, barbecue sticks, toothpicks, curtains, fabric, plates, utensils, chopsticks, toys, footwear, etc. and any other numerous types of finished bamboo products; hence a request for confirmation from your good Office. This confirmation is very critical to the development of the Bamboo Industry.

The Council also values the efforts of your Office in recognizing the value of hastening existing government procedures as manifested by your proposed policy on the *Establishment, Harvesting and Transport of Bamboo from Registered Plantations*. In line with this, as we were informed on a drafted Administrative Order from your Office on liberalizing the planting, harvesting, and transport of bamboo, we would also like to request clarification on when will this Administrative Order be issued. We would like to reiterate this policy's great importance on the promotion of sustainable use of bamboo as wood substitute in support of the development of bamboo-based industries, not only in Puerto Princesa City but also in the entire Country.

The Council greatly appreciates your favorable response on this matter. Should you need further clarification, you can contact us at exec.dir.pbidc@gmail.com attention to Mr. Rene "Butch" E. Madarang, Executive Director, PBIDC.

Sincerely yours,



RENE "BUTCH" E. MADARANG

Executive Director
Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council