

**ENGR. ARIEL T. CAYANAN**

*Undersecretary for Operations and Agri-Fisheries Mechanization*

PRDP – National Project Director

Department of Agriculture (DA)

[prdpnpco@gmail.com](mailto:prdpnpco@gmail.com)

Dear **Undersecretary Cayanan**,

This pertains to your letter dated July 05, 2021, addressed to the DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment, requesting for a dialogue to discuss the status of the Gratuitous Special Use Permit (GSUP) applications of Local Government Unit (LGU) partners for the implementation of the World Bank assisted Department of Agriculture (DA) project, entitled, Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) aimed to increase rural incomes and enhance farm and fishery productivity in the target areas.

It is well to note that various climate resilient rural infrastructure subprojects, among others, like farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems, and potable water supply facilities, will be catered by the DA-PRDP, and the implementation of same (within public lands e.g., forest land) is in line with the endeavor to protect, conserve and manage the environment through the PRDP's Integrated Environment and Social Safeguards Framework.

Relatedly, we would like to emphasize that the implementation of the said projects over forest lands requires special use permit or agreement from the DENR to enable the legal construction and operation of the infrastructures/facilities thereof. Also, the permittees or agreement holders are required to pay annual rentals for their occupation and utilization of forest lands. In terms of the annual rentals that will be charged against the LGUs (once given with special use permit) requires ample amount of financial resources, and certainly their coffers will be drained, hence, they (LGUs) requested for the issuance of GSUP.

As to the list of LGUs (attached in your letter) who have tendered their GSUP applications with the DENR in their localities, per records of this Office, it appears that there are only few GSUP applications submitted/referred to the DENR Central Office/FMB for consideration. Attached herewith is the matrix showing the status of the GSUP related applications and referrals, for your reference.

Regarding the requested dialogue/discussion on the concerns on GSUP issuance, this Office will facilitate the matter (via Zoom platform) on 03 September 2021 at 1:00 PM. The meeting link will be furnished to your Office once available. The attention of the concerned DENR Regional Offices will be called as well to participate in the discussion so as to have a prompt clarification or resolution of the issues at hand.

Should you have queries, you may communicate to the Forest Land Use and Allocation Section (FLUAS) of the Forest Resources Management Division (FRMD) of this Bureau through the email address: [fluasfmb2015@gmail.com](mailto:fluasfmb2015@gmail.com); and at telephone number: 8929-1324.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR., CESO III**  
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and  
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects,  
and FMB Director, in concurrent capacity

*Copy furnished:*

***The Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment***  
*DENR Central Office, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*