



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

TO : **THE BUREAU DIRECTORS**
Lands Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTORS
MGB REGIONAL DIRECTORS
EMB REGIONAL DIRECTORS
DENR Luzon and Visayas Regions

FROM : **THE OIC ASSISTANT SECRETARY**
Field Operations Luzon and Visayas and
Environment Management Bureau Director
In Concurrent Capacity

SUBJECT : **4th QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS OF LUZON AND VISAYAS**
CLUSTER MEETING CONDUCTED ON 07 DECEMBER 2023
VIA HYBRID SET UP

DATE : **DEC 18 2023**

We are pleased to provide you the Highlights of the 4th Quarter Cluster Luzon and Visayas Cluster Meeting held via Zoom and Face to Face on 07 December 2023. The activity aims to address the issues and concerns to be raised by Field Offices in Luzon and Visayas. Based on the presented issues and concerns and discussion on the agreements, this Office is requesting the concerned Bureaus to please submit their responses on the issues for our submission to the Undersecretary for Field Operations Luzon, Visayas and Environment. All responses will be consolidated on or before 27 December 2023. If you have clarifications on the prepared highlights, kindly email us at asecfosl.denr@yahoo.com

The meeting started by a roll call and facilitated by OIC Assistant Secretary Gilbert C. Gonzales:

- A. The following Bureaus discussed their responses to the issues raised during the 3rd Quarter Cluster Conference with their respective representatives:
- **BMB - Ms. Rachell Abenir**
 - **EMB - Asec Gilbert Gonzales**
 - **FMB - Ms. Kenneth Tabliga**
 - **LMB - AD Romeo P. Versoza**
 - **MGB - Mr. Romualdo Aguilos**
- B. Presentation of the Regions of their current and emerging issues for the 4th Quarter.

ISSUES/CONCERNS	DISCUSSION/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE(s)
REGION I - ILOCOS REGION		
Suspension on the implementation of certain provisions of DAO No. 2022-10 dated May 30, 2022 or the Revised Manual of Authorities on Technical Matters, specifically the authority delegated to the Regional Executive Directors to accept and approve tenurial instruments.	Request for clarification on what tenurial instruments are included in the suspension of acceptance, processing and approval of the Regional Office as mentioned in the Memorandum dated October 26, 2023 suspending certain provisions of DAO No. 2022-10.	FMB
REGION II - CAGAYAN		
Reference to use in the computation of the Cost of Damage on Corals of the Ship Grounding Incident within Palau Island Protected Landscape and	<p>Schedule a regular assessment which includes post-incident and annually thereafter.</p> <p>Perimeter survey for MB Siphon I's grounding area to check the impact on coral reef.</p> <p>Installation of Buoys and demarcations for ecosystem preservation.</p> <p>Allocation of funds for emergencies and the Tug boat's damage costs.</p> <p>Awareness campaigns and training programs to prevent similar incidents</p> <p>Formation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) to identify suitable sheltering areas for vessels during unfavorable weather conditions</p>	BMB
Construction of San Mariano - Palanan Road which will traverse the Strict Protection Zones of NSMNP which appears to be prohibited under RA 9125 and RA 11038	Legal guidance as to which law should be adopted by the PAMB in deciding the road construction project within the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park particularly the portion of the park within the municipalities of San Mariano and Palanan, Isabela.	
Pending SAPA application of PNP Maritime. The area is within Kalbaryo Patapat Protected Landscape being managed by DENR R1 but within the AOR of DENR R2	Guidelines as SAPA application and payment if the PA is covered by two regions. Additionally, clarification as to which region will process the SAPA application and subsequently collect the SAPA payment	BMB
REGION III - CENTRAL LUZON		
Processing and Issuance of Tenurial Instruments	<p>Pending application for Tenurial Instruments due for assistance of long term contracts or Provisional Agreement are forwarded to the Central Office for approval. Requesting clarifications on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applications accepted prior the suspension of the authority of the RED ○ National and Local projects 	FMB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Tenurial Instruments under the 2023 WFP 	
Natural Exploration	<p>Issuance of guidelines from the Central Office on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Official declaration of the area as part of public land ii. Cancellation of title; and disposition of the area for Foreshore/ Miscellaneous Lease 	LMB
Alleged illegal/ mining quarrying and environmental destruction in Banal na Bundok Sitio Balingcupang, Barangay Biak na Bato, San Miguel Bulacan	It is recommended that the Municipal ENRO of Municipality of San Miguel and LGU of Brgy Biak na Bato continue its monitoring of the subject area to ensure that no quarrying activity will be conducted within the area subject until such time that operator secure necessary permit form the concerned government agencies.	MGB
Overlapping and Duplication of Jurisdiction and Adinistrative Powers between DENR and AFAB	<p>While EMB R3 acknowledges the important role of AFAB in the monitoring or enforcement of environmental laws within the FAB the same should be limited to Assisting the agency Bureau The EMB3 proposed the rewording of the provision to read as follows:</p> <p>“[m] (P) To protect, preserve, maintain and develop the forests beaches, coral and coral reefs and maintain ecological balance within the FAB For this purpose, the AFAB shall assist the DENR in implementing environmental laws, rules and regulations within FAB”.</p>	BMB
Request by NBI-Environment Crime Division for a joint inspection on environmental complaints	Request guidance on the institutional arrangement with NBI Environmental Crime Division	EMB
REGION IV- CALABARZON		
Lack of legal basis defining the functions of PENRO Laguna as implementing PENRO and CENRO Sta. Cruz	Request the assistance of top management for the approval and issuance of DAO which defines the jurisdiction of PENRO Laguna as implementing PENRO for Congressional District 1 and 2 and administrative jurisdiction of CENRO Sta. Cruz which is Congressional District 3 and 4.	RO, DENR CO
REGION IVB- MIMAROPA		
Low Salary of Forest Protection Officers	<p>Php 8500/ month</p> <p>Request to increast the salary of the FPOs and or provide additional incentives viz insurance and other logistical support</p>	CO,
Easement within El Nido Based on E-Nipas (40 meters)	<p>Some establishments already self demolished part of their structures within 3-meter easement</p> <p>Within titled property/ A&D</p> <p>Issued patent/CLOA within UPF/forestland</p>	BMB
Notice to vacate issued by the NDRC; Implementation of 100% work from home arrangement if no office to transfer to	<p>Approval of fund request for office building rental</p> <p>Approval for the utilization of the remaining oil spill fund for preparatory activities for the</p>	CO

	transfer of the Regional Office (hauling, installation of partition, etc.)	
	Permission to occupy the building until new office space is available	
REGION V- BICOL		
Reiteration of MOA with DPWH which was endorsed to DENR Central Office for issuance of Clearance on October 20, 2023	Facilitate the issuance of Clearance to enter into MOA with DPWH	
Suspension of authority delegated to the RED to approve tenurial instruments	Issuance of clarifications whether GSUP/SLUP is included	FMB
Payment of Retention fee for NGP plantations	Coordination with COA and issuance of Memorandum for guidance of the Field Offices.	FMB
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION		
Updating of the Political Boundary Maps of the Cities of Taguig and Makati in consonance with the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. No. 235316	Memorandum for the Director, Legal Affairs Service, thru the Director, LMB prepared, seeking guidance on the updating of the Political Boundary Map based on the Entry of Judgement in lieu of the Writ of Execution Draft of the Amendment/annotation of plans already prepared and cleared by the Chief, SMD/Chief, Legal Division	LMB
The Pasig River Ferry Convergence Program (PRFCP) Chairmanship is currently under the DENR according to the National Budget Memorandum No. 113 and due to the unapproved EO on institutionalizing the PRFCP and creating an inter-agency committee.	On July 25, 2023, the Inter-Agency Council for the Pasig River Urban Development (IAC-PRUD) was constituted according to Executive Order No. 35, series of 2023. Consequently, the IAC shall have the general function and responsibility of facilitating and ensuring the full rehabilitation of the banks along the Pasig River water system and nearby water systems in order to provide alternative transportation, propel economic opportunities, and boost tourism activities. Whereby the identified Chairman of the IAC is the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.	DBM, DENR CO, DHSUD
The DENR and the PRCMO lack the mandate and capacity to administer and manage the 2 housing projects (Jaime Cardinal Sin Village (JCSV) and Villa San Isidro (VSI) of the PRRC as well as resolve the financial aspect of the project given that it is an existing loan to the ADB.	There is no policy or guidelines concerning the administration and management of government housing project once the construction of housing projects is completed. Hence, issues on unauthorized selling of units, community concerns, collection of payments, and other concerns are left unresolved.	DENR NCR, PRCMO and NHA
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION		
Uncontrolled sale of chainsaws across various platforms is fueling illegal tree cutting and deforestation	During the conduct of Chainsaw Registration Caravan in the region, 44 out of the 214 Chainsaws applied for registration were not processed due to incomplete requirements. Some of the reasons are: a. Insufficient evidence of the intended legal use of chainsaw b. Chainsaw acquisition from unauthorized sources such as online and overseas packages	FMB

	c. Altered serial number	
Failure to meet financial and physical targets on the Assessment of Graduated NGP Sites	Guidelines were issued on August 29, 2023 and took effect after its publication on September 21, 2023. But clarificatory Memo was issued to the regions on October 16, 2023 in response to several concerns	FMB
REGION VI - WESTERN VISAYAS		
Absence of an OIC RD assigned in MGB 6 in lieu of OIC RD Engr. Johnny Matias who is on sick leave since November 6, 2023.	Documents in need of approval of the Head of Agency are piling up for action Letter request dated November 6, 2023 was sent to MGB Central Office.	MGB CO, DENR CO
Signing of MOA and DOD of Donated SWM Equipment such as Biodegradable Shredder and Bio-Composter - since it was received and accepted by the previous Mayor/administration, the newly elected mayor will not sign the MOA and DOD for the said equipment.	For the Central Office to directly issue directive letter to recipient LGUs reminding of their submission	EMB CO
Affirmation of DENR Central Office on the results of the updated Carrying Capacity of Boracay Island conducted in 2022.	Requesting for feedback from top Management of the results of the study and policy issuance on the authority to certify the carrying capacity of the Island.	DENR CO
Suspension the implementation of certain provisions of DAO No. 2022-10, re: Approval of Tenurial Instruments which the signing authority is delegated to the Regional Executive Director	Evaluation and processing of applications for Provisional/Revocable permit shall continue at the PENRO and CENRO pending the review of the Manual of Authorities on Technical Matters. In the event that PPA/MARINA need clearance, DENR will issue Certification that the applications is on process.	LMB
REGION VII - CENTRAL VISAYAS		
Request for clarification on the guidelines for the re-use of wastewater for irrigation	EMB to make representation for the proposed guidelines issued by the DA about the safe reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation and other agricultural purposes.	DA, EMB CO
Allocation of budget to continue the construction of the unfinished EMB-7 building.	Request for the grant of funding to continue the building construction	EMB CO, EMB 7
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS		
Illegal titling and occupation of forestlands and Protected Areas Continuous exploitation of natural resources	The process of reversion would take time. The DENR has difficulties in enjoining agencies with police power to commence demolition of structures and eviction of illegal settlers/occupants.	LMB, FMB, BMB
Development projects of DPWH, TIEZA, PPA, LGUs,	Policy improvement and direction with DILG and	FMB

and other agencies affect the mangrove and forest areas in the implementation of some government projects like boardwalks, ecotourism projects, reclamation, and construction of roads/diversion roads).	other agencies to ensure that concerned agencies are aware of the projects. Discussion of these concerns should be at the Central Office and Cabinet level.		
Execution of MOA for non-profit projects (barangay roads and bridges) in lieu of SAPA	Follow up the status of the draft guidelines.		BMB
Earth balling of Mangrove Lack of appropriate equipment to earth ball mangroves resulting in zero survival rate.	Amendment on the earth balling conditions in the existing policy. Policy amendment.		FMB
Plantilla Positions for Protected Area Management Offices	The Plantilla Positions for approval by DBM.		BMB

For information and appropriate action.


GILBERT C. GONZALES, CESO III