



Republic of the Philippines  
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**Sender:** MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.  
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**Subject:** MEMO DTD 07/02/2024 Updated Directive from the Secretary on the Budget Initially provided to procure underwater drone  
**Addressee(s):** DENR Region I (DENR R1), DENR Region II (DENR R2), DENR Region III (DENR R3), DENR Region IV-A (DENR R4A), DENR Region IV-B (DENR R4B), DENR Region V (DENR R5), DENR Region VI (DENR R6), DENR Region VII (DENR R7), DENR Region VIII (DENR R8), DENR Region IX (DENR R9), DENR Region X (DENR R10), DENR Region XI (DENR R11), DENR Region XII (DENR R12)  
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## MEMORANDUM

**FOR** : The Regional Executive Directors  
All regions except CAR

**FROM** : The Assistant Secretary for International Affairs  
and concurrent OIC Director

**SUBJECT** : **UPDATED DIRECTIVE FROM THE SECRETARY ON THE BUDGET INITIALLY PROVIDED TO PROCURE UNDERWATER DRONE**

### I. References:

- A. Updated List of Regions and PAs with targets to procure underwater drone
- B. Draft Guidelines for the underwater drone procurement

### II. Background:

- A. The DENR allocated a budget for the procurement of underwater drones (i.e. the Remotely-Operated Vehicle or 'ROV') for CY 2024 under the PADM fund (A.O.3.d.1).
- B. Upon further discussions with the DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, new directives/instructions to restudy the recommendations for procurement of scientific and technical equipment such as the ROV.
  1. Prioritize the DENR Marine Scientific Research (MSR) Stations for the procurement of ROVs, in accordance with accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
  2. Protected Areas that have received approved funds allotted for the procurement of ROVs through their Regional Offices or implementing PENROs may still procure ROVs, or may instead procure other technical scientific equipment (TSE) for coastal and marine scientific research, subject to necessary needs assessments, justifications, and experts' advice.

### III. Recommendations and requested actions based on new directives:

In compliance with the recent directives from the Secretary and to ensure the efficient utilization of the allocated budget of 69M for the procurement of ROVs and other TSE, this memorandum serves to provide guidance and immediate actions required.

- A. **Procurement and Deployment of ROV Units by DENR Regional Offices/Implementing PENROs with approved funds:** The procurement and deployment of ROVs by the DENR should prioritize the MSR Stations. This



endeavor should be handled by the corresponding DENR Central, Regional and Field Offices in charge of the following DENR MSR Stations, to which funds were approved:

1. Cagayan MSR Station
2. Aurora MSR Station
3. Guiuan MSR Station
4. Zamboanga MSR Station

DENR Regional Offices/Implementing PENROs with MSR Stations but were not allotted funds for the procurement of ROVs or other TSE shall await for approved funds and further guidance for FY 2025 onwards.

**B. Procurement of ROVs or other TSEs by other DENR Regional Offices or implementing PENROs with approved funds for ROVs:** The procurement of ROVs or additional TSE for the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) MPAs with approved funds, but with no DENR MSR Stations, shall follow the procedure prescribed herein:

1. **Needs Assessment:** Each MPA will be assessed to determine its specific needs along with an inventory of existing TSE. Assessment will be done by the RO and PENRO.
2. **Justification and Expert Advice:** The procurement process will involve justification and expert advice, primarily from the academe and subject matter experts, to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the use of the equipment.
3. **Impact Analysis:** A thorough analysis of the possible outcomes and impacts of utilizing the proposed TSE on Protected Area (PA) management will be conducted.
4. **Terms of Reference and Specifications:** Detailed terms of reference and specifications for the TSE will be prepared to meet the technical and operational requirements of each MPA.

The draft guidelines on ROV procurement being developed by this Bureau will be updated to reflect the latest requirements and procedural changes, and to be issued as soon as available.

We expect your full cooperation and prompt action to ensure the timely procurement and deployment of the ROVs and TSE. These efforts are vital for enhancing our capacity to manage and protect our marine resources effectively.

This Bureau remains ready to answer your questions or extend its assistance. Should you have any clarifications, you may contact **Mr. Joaquin Rogelio Silvestre** of the Coastal and Marine Division of this Bureau, or your respective Action Officers, through contact numbers **(02) 8925- 8948 / (02) 8924 6031 loc 207** and email addresses: [cmd@bmb.gov.ph](mailto:cmd@bmb.gov.ph), [joaquin.silvestre@bmb.gov.ph](mailto:joaquin.silvestre@bmb.gov.ph).

For your prompt and positive action.

  
MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR., *CESO II*

