



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
MIMAROPA Region

June 16, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
1515 DENR By the Bay Building, Roxas Blvd.,
Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer

SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR THE DENR MIMAROPA REGION TO LEAD
IN TAKING FURTHER ACTIONS WITH THE ALLEGED
IRREGULARITIES IN DENR MAMBURAO OCCIDENTAL
MINDORO (W20230613-948-12) AND ALLEGED SLOW
RELEASE OF PAYMENT (W20230614-948-10)

This is in connection to the 8888 Citizen's Complaint with Ticket No. W20230613-948-12 and W20230614-948-10, filed anonymously against the Chief of Management Services Division Abe R. Francisco.

According to the documents, allegedly, there are still unpaid obligations due to the actions of Mr. Francisco.

Mr. Francisco is hereby provided with the copy of the complaints and he is instructed to submit a report in response to the allegations within 72 hours after receipt of memo.

Considering that the person involved is an employee of this Office and holding a position with Salary Grade 24, may we request for the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office to be the one to lead in any further action as you see fit.

For information and record.


ERNESTO E. TAÑADA

CC: The Chief, Management Services Division
PENRO Occidental Mindoro



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
MIMAROPA Region

June 16, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Chief, Management Services Division
FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer
SUBJECT : INSTRUCTION TO SUBMIT A REPORT REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN DENR MAMBURAO OCCIDENTAL MINDORO (W20230613-948-12) AND SLOW RELEASE OF PAYMENT (W20230614-948-10)

In connection with the anonymous 8888 Citizen's Complaint with Ticket No. W20230613-948-12 and W20230614-948-10, you are hereby instructed to submit a report within 72 hours upon receipt of this memo.

Attached are the copies of the 8888 Complaints for your reference.

For information and compliance.


ERNESTO E. TAÑADA



Office of the President

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline

Ticket Reference Number : **W20230613-948-12**
 Status: Ticket indorsed
 Head of Agency : N/A
 Agency : Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Agency Address : N/A
 Attention (Focal Person) : USEC. Marilou G. Ermi

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 6¹, s. 2016, may we respectfully transmit the following concern received through the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline:

Date: 13 June 2023
 Name of Client: N/A
 Address: N/A
 Contact Details: N/A
 Nature of call: 2023 - Integrity - Process And Services
 Subject: Alleged Irregularities in Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro

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Details:

Agency: DENR PENR Office Mamburao

Location/Address: Brgy. Payompon, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro

This is about the ongoing "tyranny" in the DENR PENR Office at Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro. A tyranny done by the Chief of Management Services Division (MSD), Forester Abe Francisco. A tyranny not by mere force but by exaggerated/absurd requirements over very important and urgent documents.

First, Forester Francisco being the Chief MSD, is the one in position to check and approve certain documents like vouchers and obligation requests together with the accountant of the PENR Office CPA Mesina. But to require some documents which even many of his constituents find magnified is really absurd. For example, CENRO San Jose and CENRO Sablayan under the jurisdiction of Forester Francisco both have a target of an event regarding environmental meetings, seminars or activities and they were able to complied it on time with proper documentation for payment to the PENRO Mamburao since all activity targets of the CENROs are processed to the Work and Financial Plan, meaning having a contract with a business entity to provide the meals and venues of the said event via Philgeps Bidding or application, and later be paid by the PENR Office. But due to the "Tyranny" of Forester Abe Francisco, many are still unpaid like Gasoline Expenses, Meal Expenses and Venue Expenses worth hundred of thousands. It is not encouraging from both CENROs to keep providing massive Information and Educating the people via seminar meetings or training or just to accomplish the targets if there is one awful selfish forester not doing his job with clean intentions.

Secondly, Forester Abe Francisco is one awful government employee. He sometimes picks on some employees because he is what you call an influential psycho (sorry for the word).

Lastly, Forest Extension Officers and Forest Protection Officers and other contract of service personnel which are obligated to protect our forest and environment, have salaries of 20k+ and 8,500 - 10,000 accordingly. The said personnel are based on the Work and Financial Plan of CENROs, but these influential psycho is an obstacle to their said salaries because it was mandated here as per day. Meaning the said personnel cannot claim their salaries as complete though many of them are working overtime specially the Forest Extension Officers and Forest Protection Officers, only claiming what was left of the salary that should be FIXED because it is included in the Work and Financial Plan. Pity are the families of the contract of services personnel. Even working on saturday and sunday, pity.

"Placet Accipere Opus"

Note: This concern has been lodged through the 8888 Website.

Information contained in this communication is privileged, confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or use the information contained in it. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center immediately and dispose this communication in accordance with the provision of Republic Act No. 99173, otherwise known as Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Please be reminded of Section 5 of EO No. 6, which states that "a citizen's concern lodged through any of the communication channels shall have a concrete and specific action within 72 hours from the receipt of the concern by the proper government agency or instrumentality".

Kindly send your reply directly to the concerned person/entity, copy furnished the 8888 Portal thru your agency 8888 Focal Team, citing the above ticket reference number. Thank you very much.

"Institutionalizing the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline and Establishing the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center", under the direction and supervision of the Office of the Executive Secretary.

***** This is an automatically generated email, please do not reply *****



Office of the President

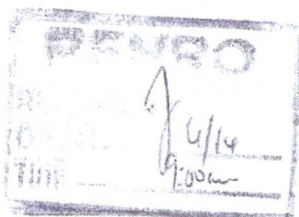
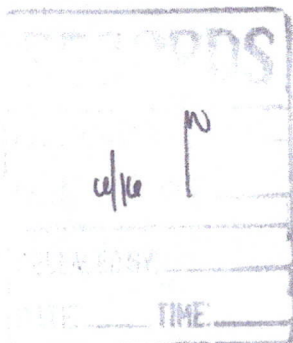
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline

Ticket Reference Number : **W20230614-948-10**
 Status: Ticket indorsed
 Head of Agency : N/A
 Agency : Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Agency Address : N/A
 Attention (Focal Person) : USEC. Marilou G. Ermi

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 6¹, s. 2016, may we respectfully transmit the following concern received through the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline:

Date: 14 June 2023
 Name of Client: N/A
 Address: N/A
 Contact Details: N/A
 N/A
 N/A
 Nature of call: 2023 - Integrity - Process And Services
 Subject: Alleged Slow Release of Payment of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Occidental Mindoro



Details:**Agency: PENRO OCCIDENTAL MINDORO****Location/Address: Brgy. Payompon, Mamburao, Occ. Mdo.**

Gusto ko po ireklamo ang Chief of Management Division ng PENRO Occidental Mindoro, signatory ng mga vouchers, dahil po sobrang tagal po ng payment para sa aming mga supplier. Masyado na po kaming naiipit dahil ang dami po naming payment na hindi pa nababayaran hanggang ngayon. Kami pong mga mahilit na negosyante ay nagpapaikot lng ng puhunan para maitawid ang aming mga pangangailangan sa araw araw. May mga payments pa po ng 2022 na hanggang ngayon ay wala pa din. Sana po ay mabigyan ng agarang aksyon ang aking hinaing sa mga problemang ito. Hindi ko po mapaikot at mapatakbo ng maayos ang aking negosyo dahil halos nasa knila pa ang aking puhunan. Sana po ay maging confidential ang aking pagkatao dahil baka lalo nya akong ipitin sa mga kailangan nyang bayaran sa akin. Hindi na po kasi makatao ang ginagawa nya. Salamat po.

Note: This concern has been lodged through the 8888 Website.

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Please be reminded of Section 5 of EO No. 6, which states that "a citizen's concern lodged through any of the communication channels shall have a concrete and specific action within 72 hours from the receipt of the concern by the proper government agency or instrumentality".

Kindly send your reply directly to the concerned person/entity, copy furnished the 8888 Portal thru your agency 8888 Focal Team, citing the above ticket reference number. Thank you very much.

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***** This is an automatically generated email, please do not reply *****



June 22, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC, PENR Officer
Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro

FROM : The Chief, MSD

SUBJECT : INSTRUCTION TO SUBMIT A REPORT REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE DENR MAMBURAO OCCIDENTAL MINDORO (W20230613-948-12) AND SLOW RELEASE OF PAYMENT (W20230614-948-10)

This is in connection with the above subject which was received by me last June 21, 2023 at 10:05 AM, summarizing them as purely allegations/accusations without knowing the imperfections of the claim for compliance by the end users of procuring office. This is due to the fact that there are no vouchers/claims left unattended in my custody. They are either proceeded with payment or returned to concerned personnel/office for compliance of findings/observations essential to my decision as the approving authority.

Much as I wanted to offer these clarifications to the complainants per 8888 footnote which goes like *"Kindly send your reply directly to the concerned person/entity, copy furnished the 8888 portal thru your agency 8888 focal team, citing the above ticket reference number. Thank you very much"* but due to their anonymity including the absence of their contact numbers/emails that will not be possible.

Please be informed that I am acting on all documents to best of my capacity inspite of other schedules like responding to queries through calls, social media (GCs), attending to sometimes overlapping virtual meetings, referring documents to subordinates, acting as in charge of office and other intervening unplanned and unavoidable tasks that need to be prioritized. All of the documents are acted based on the prescribed period of 3/7/20 days for simple to highly technical transactions pursuant to Ease of Doing Business Law.

The first complaint (W20230613-948-12) contains three allegations that I will explain below.

First allegation is that there was a magnified/ absurd requirement on the claims for payment of gasoline (fuel) meals and venues (meetings/seminars/workshops). In taking action to these documents, I am either putting notes at the back of the page where the accountant puts also her notes or sometimes, when necessary (for several lacking requirements), a checklist from the citizen's charter. This is happening when I am about to



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approve Box D of the voucher which should have been attached from the end user or upon receipt of the document as guide of the receiving personnel. This checklist of requirements is my initiative to eliminate/avoid the first accusation because only few documents are found with this checklist though all offices are already advised to attach. As approving authority to most claims, I have to do due diligence in the evaluation and scrutiny of the documents to ensure that all are proper and in order prior to approval of payment. This is also done to refrain from repetitive audit findings of the resident auditor.

I think, such accusation arose because of returned claims due to failure/non-compliance to attach Special Order (issued by the regional office on their designated Supply Officer) to establish authority as signatory to these claims. These offices have had their representatives attended several seminars organized by the region where this important requirement is always tackled and discussed. They are also reminded every now and then, in the GC, to comply with the requirement that all designations/committees have to be issued with regional special order. In spite of those, they insist what they wanted hence their claims were returned with notation. One office actually has tried to request for issuance of regional special order of personnel who is not qualified based on CSC rules on designation. In the PENRO, it was already noted with the rule on designation but was instructed by the PENRO to forward to region even though my initial evaluation says that it does not conform with CSC rules on designation. It was formally denied by region. This is the second time that similar CSC violated designation has been denied by regional office. I have already offered options with them but they did not pursue these options and proceeded with what they believed is right. As of this writing, they are not yet still complying to such recommendation/requirement though one office had made a way to have the claims proceed with payment.

The second accusation is being an influential psycho. This allegation is perceptive and baseless. As Chief, MSD, I have the PENRO who decides on majority of the things in the office. I may be able to recommend but cannot do absolute decision. I also have limited knowledge and information on most of the transactions as they are handled by staff below my level. I am treating everyone in the organization as a contributing and performing individual. My actions are all based on existing laws and policies of the agency. When in doubt for a decision, a consultation with regional office and peers is being made and even with key officials of other provinces.

The last accusation is on the failure of the forest extension and protection officers to claim fully the salary which is funded monthly but paid daily. This was already discussed in several meetings in the province and even asked guidance in the region. The decision of having daily salary based on their actual attendance to office is a result of the consultation which was answered/decided clearly in the group chat by the ARDMS. Overtime payment on the other hand, is being allowed during holidays provided that there was a valid approved travel order and supported by proof of actual work performed during that day. This is a rule/policy that is agreed upon also during FDU meetings. This is also known to everyone in the GC of all personnel of the province including the Contract of Service/Job Orders. In addition, the issuances of Department of Labor and Employment have been used as basis in payment during holidays.



The second complaint with reference number W2023 0614-948-10, is explained below:

Allegation for a slow processing and payment of their claims as supplier. Please be informed that all claims when found proper and in order are being approved in a day or two depending on type of transaction. When lacking documents are found, these are returned to the accounting or record unit which will then return the document/s to concerned personnel or office. Claims return when the supporting documents are not proper or not in order which the supplier does not know unless otherwise honestly explained to them. Moreover, payments of 2022 billing/claims is not dependent on me as I only act on claims that are forwarded to me for approval and later on crediting to the bank accounts through LDDAP. As of this writing, there was no vouchers for payment of claims on my room desk therefore if payment is not made until now then there could be problem with the documents that they may know by doing a follow up to the office that they transacted.

Please be reminded that process flow of these transactions is found in the displayed citizens charter in the office. They may also see there the involved personnel in the processing, up to the crediting of payment to their accounts.

There were also instances when the returned documents are signed by the PENRO through a memorandum which negates the allegation as influential personnel since the final decision will come from him at all times as an office protocol. All these findings are written in the voucher/claims which is undeniably, known to the PENRO and other key officials in the province severally acting on these claims. Our Accountant is also informed and consulted for such findings and often times the accountant is asked for guidance or the other way around in the evaluation of claims and supporting documents.

In the ongoing FDU today, an agreement has been reached to address the inadequacies and imperfections of the supporting documents for their claims. Admission and recognition of the findings and observations has been expressed by them and commit to comply with the requirement in the future claims while arriving to remedy/solution of previous submissions which is still within the bound of rules/laws. An inquiry to the region has also been made and verified and affirmed the findings and observations.

Finally, in the new Manual of Authorities, there were several alternate approving authorities who can perform my function to these transactions in my absence that starts with the Chief, TSD, by the Officer in Charge and the PENRO himself. These officials can take over the responsibility that I am doing if they wanted to, especially by the PENRO who is the head of office.

For information and record.


ABE R. FRANCISCO