



Republic of the Philippines

Ministry of Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila

5 September 1986

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 39
Series of 1986

SUBJECT : Reiterating the prohibition against inclusion of watershed areas in the Social Forestry Program

Ministry Administrative Order No. 48, Series of 1982, provided the guidelines to implement LOI 1260, which launched the Social Forestry Program or PROFEM II. To achieve the economic and social development objective, a democratized disposition of public forest and equitable distribution of the forest bounty was made a government policy. Accordingly, kaingeros and other forest occupants dependent on forest lands for their livelihood were provided security of tenure under the program through stewardship agreements with duration of 25 years, renewable for a like period.

The areas made available under the program were: (1) those covered by existing Forest Occupancy Management (FOM), Family Approach to Reforestation (FAR), Communal Tree Farm (CTF) and other suitable reforestation projects; (2) areas actually and directly occupied and cultivated by forest occupants as of December 31, 1981 except those specifically enumerated in Section 10 of the Order; and (3) other open and denuded areas suited for ISF development.

Explicitly, the following areas cannot be subject of forest occupancy under the ISF program:

- (1) those within national parks, proclaimed and critical watersheds and reservations;
- (2) those wherein continued occupancy would result in soil erosion, sedimentation of rivers and streams, reduction in water yield and destruction of other resources;
- (3) those subject of valid timber license agreement, pasture lease agreement, industrial tree plantation agreement, tree farm lease agreement, or any approved government lease or project other than the ISF program.

In all the above cases, the forest occupants thereat shall be resettled in a more suitable area after due notice and opportunity to identify the relocation site.

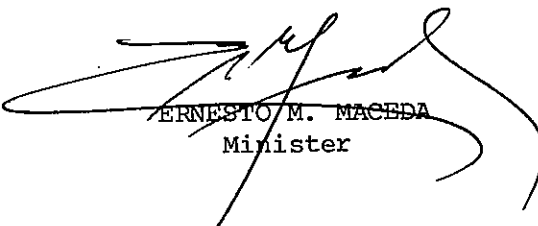
With this program, thousand of kaingeros and forest occupants/dwellers were benefited through security in their tenure and stay in

forest areas, increased economic productivity, a chance to be self-reliant and to have a better quality of life.

This is, however, not true in all parts of the country. For instance, in the recent BFD/PA Coverage of the MNR Programs in South Cotabato and General Santos City, it was found and reported that illegal logging has continuously affected the province and this is allegedly being undertaken by well-known politicians. It is even possible that the military has taken part in the degradation of the forest resources thereat. On top of this, forest occupants continue to slash and burn, resulting in serious floods and erosion. This illegal activities have persisted due to inadequate forest guards in the area. What is worse is that the activity has been done in the Matutum and Lake Sebu Watersheds which are supposed to be among the areas not susceptible of being made subject of stewardship agreement.

Due to the above, all BFD officials and personnel of Region XI at Cotabato City are hereby enjoined to see to it that the prohibition against inclusion of watersheds in the Integrated Social Forestry Program are strictly adhered to. Moreover, they shall also exert all effort to maintain and observe the total log ban in the South Cotabato and General Santos City. Failure to comply herewith shall subject the erring party to appropriate administrative disciplinary action.

Please be guided accordingly.



ERNESTO M. MACEDA
Minister

LEL/fg