

Republic of the Philippines

Ministry of Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila

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ERNESTO Ø. MACEDA Minister

SUBJECT: Exclusion of Matutum and Lake Sebu Watersheds from the operations of MAO Nos. 48 and 39, Series of 1982 and 1986, respectively

1. Pursuant to the intention of this government to transform forest occupants as agents of forest protection and conservation, and partners in the re-greening and reforestation of denuded and open areas under the concept of Integrated Social Forestry, a special consideration is hereby granted to Matutum and Lake Sebu Watersheds, South Cotabato to be exempted from the operation of MAO Nos. 48 and 39, Series of 1982 and 1986, respetively.

2. However, under such consideration, the BFD Regional and District Offices concerned shall prepare a comprehensive program under the Social Forestry concept to be implemented in these watershed areas with emphasis on slope classifications wherein prescribed farm techniques and approaches are to be applied, and the agricultural crops and forest tree species to be planted in every slope classifications in order to minimize soil erosion and surface run-off.

3. In the selection of participants to the program, particularly those that will be issued Stewardship Certificates, BFD Officials concerned must be extra-cautious to include only those who are qualified under the existing criteria and guidelines as provided for in MAO No. 48 and other issuances applicable for the purpose.

4. This Order shall take effect immediately and applicable only to the aforementioned watershed areas.

RECOMMENDING_APPROVAL:

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ISIDRO D. ESTEBAN OIC, Assistant Director In-Charge Office of the Director