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MEMORANDUM

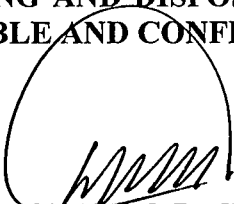
FOR/TO : **All Officials and Employees**
DENR Central Office

FROM : **The Director**
Administrative Service

SUBJECT : **ADVISORY FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL TASK
FORCE AGAINST COVID-19**

DATE :
NOV 19 2021

We are providing, for your information and close adherence, a copy of the Advisory from the Chairperson, National Task Force against COVID-19 entitled **“REITERATION OF DOH-DILG JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01 S. 2020 AND OTHER RELATED ISSUANCES ON THE PROPER HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF THE REMAINS OF COVID-19 CASES (SUSPECT, PROBABLE AND CONFIRMED)”**.


ROLANDO R. CASTRO

MEMO NO. 2021-788



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19
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NOV 16 2021

ADVISORY

Reiteration of DOH-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01 s. 2020 and other Related Issuances on the Proper Handling and Disposal of the Remains of COVID-19 Cases (Suspect, Probable and Confirmed)

This is to firmly reiterate the DOH-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01 s. 2020 entitled "Supplementary Guidelines on the Management of Human Remains for Patient under Investigation (PUI) and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases which stipulates the identification and tagging of dead bodies as responsibility of the attending physician or the local health officer in Section 3:

Supplemental Guidelines

- 3.2 "With the new case classification and definition, all dead bodies of suspect, probable and COVID-19 confirmed cases must be identified, documented and correctly labeled with identified label/biohazard tag on the cadaver bag as COVID-19 RELATED CASE – HANDLE WITH CARE
- 3.2.1. For referral facility/hospital deaths, it shall be the responsibility of the attending physician or duly authorized personnel to tag the cadaver;
- 3.2.2 For deaths outside the referral facility/hospital, it shall be the responsibility of the Local Health Officer to tag the cadaver."

Further, we reiterate the recommendations stipulated in the IATF Resolution No. 15 s. 2020, specifically these provisions:

1) **Item E:**

"The IATF recommends the actions proposed on the *handling and disposal of the remains of COVID-19 confirmed cases and PUIs* as follows:

- a. *In handling the remains of COVID-19 cases, general infection precautions must be strictly observed to avoid further spread of the disease.*
- b. *LGUs shall designate funeral service facilities to handle the remains of COVID-19 cases and to provide possible financial assistance to cover the logistics, fuel, salary and other expenses that will be incurred in the process.*
- c. *LGUs and the DILG shall monitor and penalize funeral homes that refuse to provide logistics and transport of COVID-19 remains, including but not limited to, refusal to pick-up the remains subject to the policies and guidelines of the aforementioned LGUs or DILG.*
- d. *The DSWD shall allocate for a funeral support fund allotted to indigent confirmed COVID-19 cases and PUIs regardless whether they are undergoing home quarantine, or admitted in a public or private facility. DSWD shall allot PhP 25,000.00 per deceased for this purpose.*

- e. *The LGU may release issuances or ordinances to put a price cap or impose a price freeze on funeral services located within their jurisdiction.*
- f. *To reiterate, funeral services staff and personnel are granted exemptions from the imposed enhanced community quarantine. The said individuals may freely move and travel to ensure that the remains of deceased individuals will be given proper funeral services.*
- g. *Funeral companies are directed to provide transportation and/or housing accommodations for funeral service staff.*

In this light, all Regional Task Forces (RTF), in coordination with provincial/HUC/ICC governments, component cities, and municipalities, are strongly encouraged to enforce the abovementioned issuances on the proper handling of the remains of suspected, probable and confirmed COVID-19 Cases.

For close adherence.



SECRETARY DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Chairperson, NTF COVID-19
Secretary of National Defense

