

## MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Director**  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau

FROM : **The OIC-Director,**  
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR INPUTS ON DRAFT DOH-DOT-DENR DHSUD  
JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE: GUIDELINES ON  
THE CREATION AND USE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

DATE : **18 NOV 2021**

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This refers to the letter from Director Beverly Lorraine C. Ho from the Health Promotion Bureau of the Department of Health requesting for our comments on the attached draft Joint Administrative Order re: Guidelines on the Creation and use of Public Open spaces for the Promotion of Physical and Mental Well-Being During and After the Covid-19 Pandemic.

During the fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the Policy Technical Working Group on 22 July 2021, we discussed and commented on the draft DENR Memorandum Circular on the Adoption of the Manual for the Establishment and Management of LGU-Managed Urban Parks. The guidelines forwarded to us by the DOH may be closely related to the guidelines being revised or developed by your bureaus.

In addition, one of the proposed responsibilities of the DENR is on the environmental impact assessment of infrastructure or development projects related to public open spaces in the urban setting.

In view of the above, we would like to seek your comments and feedback on the provisions of and co-issuing the said draft Joint Administrative Order. We would appreciate receiving your inputs on or before **22 November 2021** for our consolidation before the deadline set by the DOH on 24 November 2021.

For your information and appropriate action, please.

  
**MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO**



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

November 16, 2021

**MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO**  
OIC-Director  
Policy and Planning Service  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear OIC- Director Capistrano,

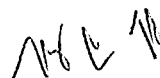
In order to promote physical and mental health of Filipinos during and while recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health (DOH) is currently formulating a policy promoting public open spaces which aims to provide guidelines on their safe reopening, as well as to outline the different standards that will constitute a healthy public open space. This promotes health and well-being among Filipinos through physical activity, social connection, environmental health and community development even beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing the critical role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in developing policies and programs that promote healthy well-being and ensuring sustainable and livable environments, the DOH is respectfully requesting for your office to provide inputs or comments to the aforementioned draft policy. We would also like to inquire if the DENR would be interested in co-issuing these guidelines. Attached herewith is a copy of the draft Administrative Order on the Guidelines on the Creation and Use of Public Open Spaces for the Promotion of Physical and Mental Health and Well-being During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic, for your reference.

We hope to receive your comments on or before Wednesday, November 24, 2021 in order to give us ample time to incorporate your inputs prior to the presentation to the Interagency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF). Should you have questions or clarifications, your office may coordinate with the DOH Health Promotion Bureau through Ms. Madee Conjares at [mmconjares@doh.gov.ph](mailto:mmconjares@doh.gov.ph) or 8651-7800 local 2832.

Thank you and we look forward to our continued collaboration to achieve a Healthy Pilipinas for all.

Very truly yours,

  
**BEVERLY LORRAINE C. HO, MD, MPH**  
Director IV  
Health Promotion Bureau



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1  
2 JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

3 No. 2021-\_\_\_\_\_

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6 SUBJECT: Guidelines on the Creation and Use of Public Open Spaces for the  
7 Promotion of Physical and Mental Health and Well-being During and  
8 After the COVID-19 Pandemic

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11 I. BACKGROUND

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13 The COVID-19 Pandemic has emphasized the need for accessible public open spaces for  
14 promotion of both physical and mental health. Evidence and literature have long established  
15 the link between health and the benefits in investing in safe and sustainable green developments  
16 to heighten health promotion in cities and communities. A 2013 World Health Organization  
17 report on urban planning, environment, and health stated that green spaces can positively affect  
18 physical activity, social and psychological wellbeing, improve air quality, reduce exposure to  
19 noise, and potentially reduce public health inequalities. Outdoor spaces are likewise preferable  
20 to indoor spaces for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

21  
22 In view of the foregoing, it is the role of the governing bodies to enable the promotion of  
23 physical activity and protection of mental wellness through ensuring the availability and access  
24 of healthy and safe public open spaces. With this, the Department of Health, together with the  
25 Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Tourism, and Department of  
26 Human Settlements and Urban Development produce these guidelines on the safe and risk-  
27 based reopening of public green, blue, and open spaces to assist administrators in the proper  
28 management of public outdoor venues and facilities during and beyond the pandemic.

29  
30 These guidelines likewise provide the different standards that will constitute a healthy public  
31 open space, in order to guide administrators and developers to maximize its physical,  
32 psychological, social, and environmental benefits. The creation of such structures strengthen  
33 social cohesion in communities and help transform neighborhoods into places that are healthy  
34 to live, work, play, and age in. This policy envisions communities with health-supportive  
35 environments that support better health outcomes for all Filipinos.

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## II. OBJECTIVE

This Order aims to provide guidance on the creation and use of public open spaces to promote physical and mental health and well-being during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Provide guidance on the risk-based reopening of public open spaces; and
2. Provide standards for the creation of healthy public open spaces.

## III. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

These guidelines shall cover all public open spaces, including natural green and blue spaces, and green spaces in urban settings under the national or local governments.

## IV. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

A. **Public open spaces** - is an umbrella term which shall refer to land spaces provided by the national or local government, designated as parkas and intended for physical activity, leisure, and recreational use by the public. Public open spaces may also include privately-owned land spaces that are made publicly accessible. These may be categorized based on the following:

*According to surface or setting:*

- a. **Blue spaces** - shall refer to public open spaces with natural water elements ranging from ponds to coastal zones and public beaches;
- b. **Green spaces** - shall refer to public open spaces with natural surfaces or natural settings; green open spaces include, but are not limited to traits, forest parks, natural wildlife areas, community gardens;
- c. **Urban green spaces** - shall refer to public open spaces in urban settings with street trees, shrubs, or other urban greenery intended for leisure or recreational use such as city or municipal squares and plazas, pocket parks and parklets, outdoor food parks, farmers markets, and the like;

*According to activity:*

- a. **Active open spaces** - shall refer to public open spaces for the primary purpose of formal outdoor sports or organized physical activities such as sports complexes, basketball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, and the like;
- b. **Passive open spaces** - shall refer to public open space used for leisure, unstructured physical activity, passive recreation, or informal play such as neighborhood parks, gardens, linear corridors, conservation areas or heritage sites, nature reserves, and the like;

## V. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. For the continued mitigation of COVID-19 transmission, proper implementation of the minimum public health standards per DOH AO No. 2021-0043 on the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions shall at all times be ensured.

B. Public open spaces shall remain operational and accessible to the public, in limited capacity, when applicable.

- 93 C. Public open spaces shall ensure equitable access of all people, regardless of age,  
94 gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, or socio-economic status.
- 95 D. In order to maximize the physical, psychological, social, and environmental benefits  
96 of public open spaces, development of relevant spaces and infrastructure shall be  
97 guided by the minimum standards set out in Section VI-C of this Order.
- 98 E. All public open spaces that are required to attain development or building permits shall  
99 undergo the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Review Process of the DOH and  
100 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System of the Department of Environment and  
101 Natural Resources, pursuant to UHC Act and Presidential Decree No. 1586.

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103 **VI. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES**  
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105 **A. Health and safety protocols for COVID-19 mitigation in public open spaces**

- 106 1. Movement of persons shall be subject to restrictions based on ages and  
107 comorbidities determined by the LGUs.
- 108 2. All individuals shall be required to wear face masks at all times. Individuals  
109 engaging in physical activities in public open spaces or high-density areas are  
110 recommended to wear face masks, but maintain the conduct of physical activity to  
111 a low or moderate intensity. Furthermore, individuals may remove their face masks  
112 when eating and/or drinking, provided that eating and drinking is permitted in the  
113 alert level of the area and that physical distancing is maintained from individuals  
114 and/or groups from different households.
- 115 3. Physical markers that serve as visual cues for physical distancing shall be placed  
116 where applicable, to guide individuals to maintain a distance of at least one (1)  
117 meter from individuals or groups from different households.
- 118 4. Public toilets and sanitation facilities inside the premises of public open spaces  
119 shall be kept open and properly maintained to reduce risk of transmission of  
120 COVID-19. In the absence of basic sanitation facilities, all relevant actors shall  
121 endeavor to provide amenities that enable proper hand hygiene such as presence  
122 of hand sanitizers, dispensers with alcohol-based solution, and handwashing  
123 facilities.
- 124 5. Routine disinfection of infrastructure and high-touch surfaces in public open  
125 spaces shall be ensured.
- 126 6. Renting, borrowing, or sharing of non-personal equipment (e.g. bikes, scooters,  
127 etc.) shall be permitted, provided that these are routinely disinfected before and  
128 after every use. Further, renting, borrowing, or sharing of personal equipment such  
129 as those used orally (e.g. mouth guards, water gear, etc.) and those that have  
130 prolonged contact with the face (e.g. helmet, headgear, etc.) shall not be allowed.
- 131 7. A Safety Seal shall be granted to public open spaces with management that have  
132 established the applicable administrative and engineering controls for mitigating  
133 the transmission of COVID-19, in accordance with DOLE-DOH-DILG-DOT-DTI  
134 Joint Memorandum Circular 2021-01 on the Implementing Guidelines of the  
135 Safety Seal Certification Program.

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138 **B. Risk-based classification of activities in public open spaces**

139 Policies, plans, and guidelines for the management and operation of public open spaces  
140 within the scope of this Order shall be based on the risk severity grading of the area  
141 and the activities performed by its users and visitors. The following tiered

142 implementation of allowed activities shall apply, provided that minimum public health  
143 standards are still observed (See *Annex A* for summary of activities):

- 144 1. Outdoor venue capacity shall be in compliance with restrictions set by the IATF,  
145 based on the risk-severity/alert level of the area.
- 146 2. Individual outdoor exercises shall be encouraged to promote health and well being  
147 through physical activity. The conduct of individual exercise and contact sports in  
148 public open spaces shall be allowed pursuant to the latest guidelines of the Inter-  
149 Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging and Infectious Diseases  
150 (IATF).
- 151 3. Eating and drinking in outdoor public open spaces shall, where applicable, follow  
152 the latest guidelines and venue capacity of the IATF for parks, plazas, public  
153 gardens, and dine-in services.
- 154 4. Tourist attractions with open spaces shall observe the latest guidelines and  
155 restrictions set by the Department of Tourism, the IATF and their respective LGU.
- 156 5. Operation of active open spaces which provide shared features or amenities with  
157 high-touch surfaces such as playgrounds and outdoor gyms shall be limited based  
158 on the risk-severity grading/alert level of the LGU.
- 159 6. Operation of food concessionaires in public open spaces shall be limited by the  
160 LGU based on the risk-severity grading/alert level of the area.
- 161 7. Outdoor events shall be limited by the LGU, and shall only be permitted pursuant  
162 to the latest IATF Guidelines for risk-based classification of areas.  
163

164 **C. Minimum standards for the creation, promotion, operations, and use of healthy**  
165 **public open spaces**

- 166 1. *Open and accessible*
  - 167 a. Recognizing that public open spaces are essential to the core functioning of a  
168 community, all such spaces shall be designed cohesively within the network  
169 of other essential destinations and establishments.
  - 170 b. All public open spaces must be easily accessible by foot, bicycle and other  
171 forms of active or light modes of transportation, and public transit.
  - 172 c. In communities where public open spaces are limited, existing lands or  
173 recreational areas in schools or other similar properties may be opened up for  
174 such purposes through shared use agreements between the relevant entity and  
175 the local government.  
176
- 177 2. *Child, elderly, and PWD friendly.* All public open space shall aim to be sensitive  
178 and responsive to the needs of all its users, especially the children, elderly, and  
179 persons with limited physical mobility or other disabilities.
  - 180 a. Sidewalks, walking paths, pedestrian and crossing infrastructures, and other  
181 accessibility facilities shall be provided at grade. Materials that are tactile, not  
182 slippery when wet, well lit, and that can provide high contrast shall be used in  
183 the development or enhancement of such spaces.
  - 184 b. All signages, controls, or nudges for way-finding shall be made visible with  
185 appropriate visual design, and placed in conspicuous areas at suitable height  
186 for children and people in wheelchairs.
  - 187 c. Properly maintained public furniture, rest areas, benches, shades, and other  
188 similar features and amenities that are easily located shall be provided for the  
189 elderly, persons with disabilities, and families with children.  
190

- 191 d. Public open spaces shall, as applicable, provide appropriate, sanitary, and  
192 properly maintained breastfeeding and changing stations for mothers with  
193 infants or children.
- 194 e. A mix of open and enclosed spaces shall be provided to allow users to select  
195 the kind of environment that they want to experience, especially for autistic  
196 and neurodivergent persons, and deaf or hard of hearing people who may  
197 prefer more enclosed or secure facilities with less sensory information.
- 198 f. All public open spaces shall, as applicable, set up a mix of activities to cater  
199 to the well-being needs of both hypersensitive and hyposensitive persons.  
200
- 201 3. *Safe space for all genders.* All public open spaces shall adopt a zero-tolerance  
202 policy against acts of gender-based streets and public spaces sexual harassment  
203 such as unwanted and uninvited sexual actions or remarks, wolf-whistling,  
204 catcalling, misogynistic, transphobic, homophobic, and sexist slurs, physical or  
205 verbal advances that threaten one’s personal space, or such other acts as provided  
206 for in RA No. 11313 or the “Safe Spaces Act”.
- 207 a. All public open spaces shall ensure safe routes going to and from its premises  
208 by properly maintaining park visibility during daylight hours, as well as proper  
209 lighting at night.
- 210 b. Interior security mechanisms to prevent and/or address such incidents shall be  
211 instituted in all public open spaces. These include installing clearly visible  
212 warning signs against gender-based sexual harassment, and designating an  
213 anti-sexual harassment officer to assist and provide support to the victim, as  
214 applicable.  
215
- 216 4. *Smoke and vape, drug, alcohol free*
- 217 a. All public open spaces, especially those frequented by the youth, families with  
218 children, and persons with co-morbidity, shall strictly enforce a no smoking  
219 and no vaping policy, consistent with existing relevant laws. No designated  
220 smoking or vape areas shall be harbored within the premises of the public park  
221 and open space.
- 222 b. Selling and advertising of tobacco or vape products within 100 meters from  
223 any point of the perimeter of the public open spaces shall not be allowed.
- 224 c. Drinking and selling, especially to minors, of alcoholic beverages or other  
225 drinks with alcohol regardless of level of alcohol content shall not be allowed  
226 in public open spaces, including in outdoor food parks and farmers markets,  
227 in accordance with Food and Drug Administration Circular No. 2019-006 on  
228 Guidelines in the Commercial Display, Selling, Promotion, and Advertising  
229 of Alcohol.
- 230 d. All public open spaces shall remain drug-free in compliance with Republic  
231 Act No. 9165 (“Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002”), and other  
232 existing policies.  
233
- 234 5. *Handwashing and sanitation*
- 235 a. Handwashing stations with clean water and soap shall be installed in public  
236 open spaces.
- 237 b. Sufficient, easily located, and properly maintained facilities for toilet use and  
238 personal hygiene that provide privacy for its users shall be established.
- 239 c. In public open spaces with amenities or concessionaires for food and drinks,  
240 facilities for toilet and personal hygiene must not be connected directly or  
241 situated close to the kitchens.

242 d. Pocket parks or parklets and other urban green spaces of relatively smaller  
243 scale, and thus with no necessity for dedicated sanitation facilities, shall  
244 ensure that as an alternative, a publicly available handwashing station, toilet,  
245 and restroom is accessible within 100 meters from its location.  
246

247 6. *Eco-friendly, sustainable, and non-polluting*

248 a. Development or enhancement of public open spaces shall, under no  
249 circumstance, destroy, displace, and/or contaminate existing natural habitat of  
250 local wildlife, forests, or agricultural domains.

251 b. Public open spaces with water facilities like ponds, fountains, or other related  
252 attractions, shall be designed to consume water efficiently and sparingly  
253 whenever possible.

254 c. A system for management of solid wastes of visitors, including placing of  
255 trash bins, schedule of garbage collection and disposal, shall be established  
256 and properly maintained by the administrators.

257 d. Clear and visibly designed signages and reminders about proper solid waste  
258 etiquette among park users shall be posted in conspicuous locations.  
259

260 7. *Functional park management and enforcement*

261 a. Public open spaces shall adopt appropriate environmental design principles  
262 that enable natural surveillance and natural access control, which allow for  
263 safe, orderly, and enjoyable outdoor experience for all its users.

264 b. Public open spaces, especially those within the jurisdiction of national and  
265 local governments, shall have dedicated park administrators, recreation staff,  
266 rangers, and/or security officers to enforce relevant park policies and provide  
267 safety and assistance to its users and visitors.

268 c. Regular and supervised programming of engaging and appropriate physical  
269 activity, sports, or recreational activities shall be facilitated to increase the use  
270 of public open spaces and the public's sense of community and organization.  
271

272 8. *Promotes local culture, heritage, and biodiversity*

273 a. Programming of amenities, attractions, and activities in public open spaces,  
274 especially those within the purview of the local governments, shall consider  
275 and accommodate the needs and the cultural identities of all social groups in  
276 the community.

277 b. Public open spaces shall, where applicable, protect and feature native species  
278 of animals, insects, trees, and flora or vegetation.  
279

280 **D. Sustainability and financing of public open spaces**

281 1. Resources at the national level shall be allocated for the promotion, creation or  
282 enhancement, and operational maintenance for amenities and programming of  
283 public open spaces.

284 2. Likewise, resources at the local government level should be mobilized to support  
285 and maintain public open spaces within its jurisdiction. LGUs are enjoined to  
286 include as part of its local development plans the creation of healthy public open  
287 spaces or improvement of existing local public open spaces that are aligned with  
288 the provisions of this Order.

289 3. New financing mechanisms may be explored, including but not limited to public-  
290 private partnerships, benefit allocations, community fund-raising, or donations, to  
291 support establishment of new or enhancement of existing open spaces.



- 292 4. Privately-owned and managed open spaces may implement reasonable fees for the  
293 maintenance of the facilities.  
294

295 **VII. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**  
296

297 **A. The Department of Health (DOH) shall:**

- 298 1. Continue to update the set minimum public health standards based on most recent  
299 evidence available, and issue succeeding updates through appropriate policy  
300 issuances;  
301 2. Provide technical assistance in developing the health standards, protocols, and  
302 guidelines on the development and use of healthy public open spaces; and  
303 3. Monitor and evaluate relevant data or indicators on health and its risk factors in  
304 relation to the promotion and use of public open spaces.

305 **B. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall: [for consultation]**

- 306 1. Develop and promulgate supplementary guidelines for the operations of tourist  
307 attractions or such other public open spaces within its area of jurisdiction that are  
308 covered in this Order; and  
309 2. Provide technical assistance in the programming of supervised activities in public  
310 open spaces.

311 **C. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall: [for  
312 consultation]**

- 313 1. Provide relevant environmental standards for the development or enhancement of  
314 public open spaces, especially green and blue spaces;  
315 2. Facilitate the environmental impact assessment of infrastructure or development  
316 projects related to public open spaces, as applicable; and  
317 3. Monitor and evaluate environment-related data or indicators relevant to public  
318 open spaces.

319 **D. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall: [for  
320 consultation]**

- 321 1. Promote among the local government units the adoption of national policies,  
322 programs, and standards on healthy public open spaces;  
323 2. Grant Safety Seal certification to open public spaces with management that have  
324 complied with applicable requirements, pursuant to DOLE-DOH-DILG-DOT-DTI  
325 Joint Memorandum Circular 2021-01;  
326 3. Monitor the development of public open spaces in local government units; and  
327 4. Ensure that law enforcement agencies implement applicable safety policies, rules  
328 and regulations in public open spaces.

329 **E. The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) shall:  
330 [for consultation]**

- 331 1. Provide necessary technical assistance for land use and urban planning and  
332 development in the creation of open public spaces; and  
333 2. Ensure that urban developments for open public spaces comply with the standards  
334 set in Section C of the Specific Guidelines of this Order.

335 **F. Local Government Units (LGUs) are strongly enjoined to:**

- 336 1. Review existing urban, land use, environmental, and/or tourism plans to inform  
337 the development, promotion, operations and use public open spaces;  
338 2. Provide necessary resources and infrastructure for city, municipal, or community  
339 public open spaces;  
340 3. Incentivize the development of pocket parks and parklets in the community;  
341 4. Ensure the proper implementation of the minimum public health standards in  
342 public open spaces;

- 343 5. Maintain city, municipal, or community public open spaces located in their  
344 jurisdiction;  
345 6. Coordinate with the relevant National Government Agencies in carrying out the  
346 provisions of this Order; and  
347 7. Ensure immediate and widest dissemination of these guidelines to all units and  
348 sectors within their jurisdiction.  
349

350 **VIII. REPEALING CLAUSE**

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352 Other related issuances not consistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby revised,  
353 modified, or rescinded accordingly. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as a limitation  
354 or modification of existing laws, rules, and regulations.  
355

356 **IX. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

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358 Should any provision of this Order or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other  
359 provisions, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force  
360 and effect.  
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362 **X. EFFECTIVITY**

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364 This Order shall take effect immediately.  
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366

**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**  
*Secretary*  
Department of Health

**BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT**  
*Secretary*  
Department of Tourism

**ROY A. CIMATU**  
*Secretary*  
Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources

**EDUARDO M. AÑO**  
*Secretary*  
Department of Interior and  
Local Government

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**Annex A. Summary matrix of recommended conduct of activities in public open spaces**  
*(Subject to change following succeeding issuances of the IATF)*

	ECQ	GCQ			
	Alert Level 5	Alert Level 4	Alert Level 3	Alert Level 2	Alert Level 1
<b>Outdoor Venue Capacity</b>	Not allowed	30% venue capacity	50% venue capacity	70% venue capacity	100% venue capacity
<b>Exercise - Contact Sports</b>	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Allowed at a maximum of 70% on-site or venue/seating capacity, taking into account physical distancing and approved by the LGU where such games shall be held	Allowed at a maximum of 100% on-site or venue/seating capacity, taking into account physical distancing
<b>Exercise - Non-Contact Sports and Other Forms of Physical Activity</b>	Not allowed	Individual outdoor exercises beyond the general area of their respective residences shall be allowed for all, except for unvaccinated individuals in the vulnerable population. No group activities shall be conducted.  If possible, limit the individuals allowed at a maximum of 30% of the venue capacity	Individual outdoor exercises shall be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status. No group activities shall be conducted  If possible, limit the individuals allowed at a maximum of 50% of the venue capacity	Individual outdoor exercises shall be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status. No group activities shall be conducted  If possible, limit the individuals allowed at a maximum of 70% of the venue capacity	Individual outdoor exercises shall be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status.
<b>Eating/Drinking (e.g. outdoor dining, picnics)</b>	Not allowed	Eating and drinking shall be allowed at a maximum of thirty percent (30%) of the venue capacity taking into account physical	Eating and drinking shall be allowed at a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the venue capacity taking into account physical	Eating and drinking shall be allowed at a maximum of seventy percent (70%) of the venue capacity taking into account physical	Eating and drinking shall be allowed at a maximum of a hundred percent (100%) of the venue capacity taking into account

		distancing, and regardless of vaccination status.	distancing, and regardless of vaccination status.	distancing, and regardless of vaccination status.	physical distancing, and regardless of vaccination status.
<b>Operation/Availability of Shared Facilities (Playgrounds, Outdoor Gyms, etc.)</b>	Not allowed	Allowed, ensure regular cleaning and maintenance and 30% venue capacity	Allowed, ensure regular cleaning and maintenance and 50% venue capacity	Allowed, ensure regular cleaning and maintenance and 70% venue capacity	Allowed, ensure regular cleaning and maintenance
<b>Operation of Visitor or Tourist Attractions</b>	Not allowed	Not allowed	Max of 30% indoor venue capacity** and 50% outdoor capacity	Max of 50% indoor venue capacity (except for unvaccinated individuals over 65 years old) and 70% outdoor venue capacity	Full on-site capacity
<b>Operation of Funfairs/Peryas</b>	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Max of 50% indoor venue capacity (except for unvaccinated individuals over 65 years old) and 70% outdoor venue capacity	Full on-site capacity
<b>Outdoor concerts in open spaces</b>	Not allowed	30% venue capacity	50% venue capacity	70% venue capacity	100% venue capacity

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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**DENR-POLICY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**  
**Minutes of Meeting No. 2021-14**

July 22, 2021, 1:30 PM

Combination of Virtual Meeting via Zoom and In-Person Hybrid Meeting  
PPS-PSD, 3/F DENR Bldg., Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

**I. Attendees**

1. Dir. Melinda C. Capistrano, PPS
  2. Dir. Hiro Masuda, SCIS
  3. AD Roland de Jesus, MGB
  4. Mr. Edgar Madera, MGB
  5. Ms. Argean Guiaya, BMB
  6. For. Rachell Abenir, BMB
  7. Ms. Joyce Se, BMB
  8. Ms. Rowena Tercero, BMB
  9. For. Ma. Teresa Aquino, FMB
  10. For. Kenneth Tabliga, FMB
  11. Ms. Belly Cabeso, EMB
  12. Ms. Lynlei Pintor, ERDB
  13. For. Ivy Nicole Angeles, OCOS
  14. Ms. Aminah Blanco, OULAHRLA
  15. Ms. Myla Carungi, OUFOE
  16. Ms. Maria Cristina Francisco, OUFOE
  17. For. Roberto A. Oliveros, OUMMA
  18. Ms. Alyssa Micah Macasieb, OUPPIA
  19. Mr. Teofilo Alqueza, OUSC
  20. Ms. Judith Redula, OUE
  21. Atty. Andrew Soriano, OUIPAMEPP
  22. Ms. Gigi Merillo, OUFISCC
  23. For. Flordelino Rey, OASPPFASP
  24. Engr. Roberto Aguda, OASPPFASP
  25. Mr. Elias Susaya, Jr., OASFISMC
  26. Mr. Joseph Luke Crisostomo, OASFOL
  27. Ms. Maureen Reyes, OASFOV
  28. Atty. Manuel Rodriguez – SCIS
  29. Ms. Louise Andrea Gonzales – SCIS
  30. Ms. Julie Ibulan – SCIS
  31. Engr. Ernestina Jose – SCIS
  32. Ms. April Casas – SCIS
  33. Ms. Queenielyn Rodaje – SCIS
  34. Atty. Camilo Garcia, LAS
  35. For. Venerando U. Garcia, PSD
- Secretariat (PPS-PSD)
36. Mr. Nehemiah B. Salvador
  37. For. Amisol B. Talanía
  38. Ms. Mary Lou Retos
  39. Ms. Marlyn C. Arzaga
  40. Ms. Anna Michelle I. Lim
  41. Ms. Maria Teresa Enriquez
  42. Ms. Emma Liwliwa Baradi-Medina

**II. Highlights of the Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 1:37 PM and was presided over by Dir. Melinda Capistrano. She enumerated the proposed policies for deliberation. For. Oliveros moved for the approval of the agenda for the meeting.

22 **1. Draft DMC re Implementasyon ng Kautusang Tagapagpaganap Bilang 335 ng**  
23 **Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino**  
24

25 *Presentation and Discussions:*  
26

- 27
- 28 • Ms. Julie Ibulan (SCIS) presented the draft policy, including the events that led to  
29 its drafting. In March 2021 the DENR was invited by the Komisyon sa Wikang  
30 Filipino (KWF) to participate in the 2021 Selyo ng Kahusayan sa Serbisyo Publiko.  
31 Usec Antiporda the DENR's participation under level 2 of the said event. She  
32 enumerated the action items to be accomplished, and one of these is the translation  
33 of various documents, office names, signages into Filipino. The draft DMCs shall  
34 serve as one of the Means of Verification for the validation of KWF. According to  
35 her, the DENR's Mission, Vision and Mandate have already been translated in  
36 Filipino.
  - 37 • Atty. Manuel Rodriguez (SCIS) discussed the legal bases for translating the  
38 communications in Filipino, i.e., Article XIV, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution,  
39 Executive Order (EO) 335, s. 1988, and Republic Act (RA) 7104. He mentioned  
40 that aside from these efforts from the executive and legislative branches, a  
41 Supreme Court decision was issued in full Filipino language, in compliance with  
42 the directive.
  - 43
  - 44 • Engr. Ernestina Jose (SCIS) presented the activities conducted regarding the matter  
45 such as the capacity-building, webinar conducted, and the validation done by the  
46 KWF. She echoed the statement of Ms. Ibulan that the DENR's Mission, Vision,  
47 Mandate, names of offices, publications, Citizen's Charter, etc. have already been  
48 translated in the Filipino Language, and this was subjected to validation by the  
49 KWF. The Panunumpa sa Katungkulan was also translated in Filipino. EO 335  
50 directs agencies to assign focal persons to take care of correspondences written in  
51 Filipino and to translate names of offices, and signages into Filipino.  
52
  - 53 • Dir. Capistrano asked on the correction regarding the translation of the Policy and  
54 Planning Service (PPS), particularly the use of the term "Pangpatakaran" to refer to  
55 "Policy". For. Oliveros suggested changing the translation of PPS to Servisyong  
56 Patakaran at Pagpapalano. Atty. Rodriguez replied that they will confer with the  
57 KWF regarding the matter.  
58
  - 59 • For. Oliveros requested clarification whether the policy should be in the form of a  
60 DENR Administrative Order (DAO) since it is an implementation of a law. In  
61 response, Atty. Rodriguez stated that the law does not prescribe the issuance of an  
62 implementing rules and regulations (IRR) and only upholds the provision of the  
63 1987 Constitution.  
64
  - 65 • Dir. Capistrano suggested the use of the Filipinized word for Biodiversity. For.  
66 Abenir informed that there is already a Filipino translation for the Biodiversity  
67 Management Bureau (BMB) which is the "Kawanihan ng Pamamahala ng Samot-  
68 saring Buhay." She also requested the removal of "ilang", as agreed previously.  
69 This being the case, Dir. Capistrano suggested that the same formatting should be  
70 applied to the translation of the names of other offices.  
71

- 72 • On the Land Management Bureau (LMB), it was suggested that term “land” be  
73 translated as “kalupaan.”  
74
- 75 • For. Tess Aquino suggested changing Yaman to Likas Yaman for the translation of  
76 NAMRIA.  
77
- 78 • The item regarding the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) was deleted  
79 considering that the agency is under the Office of the President (OP).  
80
- 81 • On Item D, For. Aquino suggested that Regions IV-A, IV-B, and 13 be named as  
82 CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and CARAGA as these are their official names.  
83 Engr. Aguda said that NCR and CAR be placed before “rehiyon” since the R  
84 already means for Rehiyon. For Aquino also suggested that the National Capital  
85 Region (NCR) and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) be also translated.  
86
- 87 • On line 88, ipatutupad was changed to ipagpapatupad.  
88
- 89 • On line 91, Engr. Aguda suggested changing “badyet” to pananalapi  
90
- 91 • On the use of the word “awdit” to refer to “audit,” Ms. Ibulan informed that this is  
92 the term prescribed and used by the KWF.  
93
- 94 • It was suggested that the tenses of the words/terms should be consistent.  
95
- 96 Dir. Capistrano noted that the names of the Divisions are not translated in Filipino.  
97 She suggested that these translations should be included in the draft policy. Ms.  
98 Ibulan commented that the divisions/offices may be asked to provide their own  
99 translations. Relatedly, For. Oliveros suggested the translation of the names of  
100 sections or units. Moreover, the names of the new offices such as the climate  
101 change service (CCS) and the environmental and law enforcement protection  
102 service (ELEPS) should also be translated and included in the draft MC. For.  
103 Oliveros added that the sections should also be translated.
- 104 • On the translation of the ERDB, For. Rey suggested the use of “Kawanihan sa  
105 Pananaliksik at Pagpapaunlad ng Ugnayang Ekolohiya.” Dir. Capistrano suggested  
106 that the proponent check the proposed translation if it can be adopted.  
107
- 108 • On the translation of SCIS, Engr. Aguda suggested the use of the word  
109 “estrategiko” as translation for the term “strategic.”  
110
- 111 • On FASPS, Engr. Aguda suggested that the term “Special Projects” be translated  
112 as “mga Natatanging Proyekto.”  
113
- 114 • For. Crisostomo suggested that the word “preservation” in Line 14, preservation be  
115 changed into “pangangalaga”  
116

- 117 • For. Oliveros recommended thinking of a different word other than “tanggapan”  
118 due to the negative connotation.  
119  
120 • On the Legal Service, Atty. Garcia commented through the chat box that the office  
121 is Legal Affairs Service. For. Garcia commented that this should also have a  
122 corresponding translation.  
123

124 ***Agreements:***

- 125  
126 • On the Policy and Planning Service, the proponent should look into the proper  
127 translation for the term “Policy.”  
128 • The BMB shall be translated as “Kawanihan ng Pamamahala ng Samot-saring  
129 Buhay.” To be consistent, “ng” shall also be used for the translation of other  
130 bureaus like FMB and LMB.  
131 • On the Land Management Bureau, look into the proper translation for the term  
132 “land.”  
133 • Delete the translation of Philippine Reclamation Authority under Attached  
134 Agencies  
135 • The other offices not included in the draft DMC such as the Climate Change  
136 Service (CCS), Environmental Protection and Law Enforcement Service (ELEPS),  
137 as well as sections/units under Divisions should come up with the translation of  
138 their offices.  
139 • On the names of the regional offices, corresponding translations should be done for  
140 the National Capital Region and the Cordillera Administrative Region.  
141 • On the ERDB, look into the proper translation for the term “ecosystems.”  
142 • On the SCIS, consider the proposed translation of the term “strategic” to  
143 “estrategika.”  
144 • On FASPS, consider the proposed translation of “special projects” to “mga  
145 Natatanging Proyekto.”  
146 • Proponent to consult the KWF regarding the proposed translations before finalizing  
147 the revised draft policy.  
148 • PSD to consider/incorporate the comments/suggestions of the PTWG in the draft  
149 policy. The revised policy shall then be forwarded to the proponent for  
150 concurrence/refinement. Thereafter, the same will be circulated to the  
151 Undersecretaries concerned for vetting/concurrence.  
152  
153

154 **2. Draft DMC re Opisyal na Paggamit sa mga Naisalin na mga Opisyal na**  
155 **Korespondensiya at Komunikasyon Katulad ng Bisyon, Misyon, at Mandato ng**  
156 **Kagawaran, Citizens Charter, mga Paskil, Pangalan ng Tanggapan, at Iba Pa**  
157

158 ***Presentation and Discussions:***

- 159  
160 • The draft policy was presented by Atty. Rodriguez. For. Oliveros inquired if there  
161 is a Filipino translation for Citizen’s Charter. In reply, Atty. Rodriguez informed  
162 that there is no alternative collective Filipino translation for the said terms.  
163  
164 • For. Rey asked if there is another term for bisyon such as pananaw or paningin.  
165



- 166 • For. Oliveros suggested that the translations of the DENR Mission, Vision, and  
167 Mandate be incorporated in the draft DMC. Otherwise, these may be attached as  
168 annexes to the draft policy.  
169
- 170 • For. Garcia commented that there should also be translations for Undersecretaries  
171 and Assistant Secretaries. In reply, Atty. Rodriguez informed that these were  
172 already translated.  
173
- 174 • Engr. Aguda noted that for the regional offices, the translation of the “Division”  
175 should be consistent with what was indicated in the other policy. Ms. Queenielyn  
176 Rodaje informed that according to the KWF, the use of translated terms is  
177 dependent on the discretion of the agency. During the validation, the term “sangay”  
178 was used. For. Oliveros suggested that the terms used in policies approved by the  
179 KWF should be adopted. Atty. Rodriguez said that the resolution of issues like  
180 these will be a function of the LKO, which is yet to be established. A discussion  
181 ensued regarding the use of the term “sangay” to refer to “division.” For. Aquino  
182 suggested that the DENR may adhere to the use of terms already approved or  
183 prescribed by the KWF to ensure consistency of the use of these words. The body  
184 agreed upon using “dibisyon” to be consistent with BMB’s approved translation.  
185
- 186 • For. Garcia informed that the comments/suggestions of the PTWG will be  
187 incorporated in the draft policy. The revised policy will then be forwarded to the  
188 proponent for concurrence/refinement. Thereafter, the same will be circulated to  
189 the Undersecretaries concerned for vetting/concurrence. However, the proposed  
190 translations will have to be consulted first by the proponent with the KWF.  
191
- 192 • For. Rey said that CR should be translated to Palikuran. For. Aguda suggested silid  
193 aklatan as the translation for library. Atty. Manuel said that there are also digital  
194 libraries.  
195
- 196 • For. Rey commented that there should be a proper abbreviation for the translated  
197 word for attorney.  
198
- 199 • For. Aquino remarked that they will consult the KWF regarding the proper  
200 translation of terms for consistency.  
201
- 202 • “Sangay sa Pananaliksik at Opinyong Legal” was the proposed term for Legal  
203 Research and Opinion Division.  
204
- 205 • On the “Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center,” Engr. Aguda noted that the  
206 translation for center which is “sentro” may not be appropriate. Ms. Se commented  
207 that this was already vetted by the KWF. Ms. Rodaje reiterated that per the KWF,  
208 the use of terms is dependent upon what is prescribed by the Department.  
209
- 210 • For. Rey informed that under the Dalaw-Turo program, terms have already been  
211 translated into Filipino. He suggested that these translations be revisited.  
212

- 213 • Engr. Aguda commented that on ERDB, the term “ecosystems” should be  
214 translated as “ekosistems.” For. Abenir suggested that the use of the terms already  
215 adopted previously.  
216
- 217 • For. Garcia inquired if the document being reviewed will be attached as an annex  
218 of the draft policy. He noted, however, that the translations do not include other  
219 DENR offices, and only features translations specific to BMB. Atty. Rodriguez  
220 said that this will serve as a guide for other offices.  
221
- 222 • For. Aquino commented that the translations for offices should be distinguished  
223 from the translations of the designations of officials. For. Oliveros opined that only  
224 general concerns of the DENR should be included in the annex. To distinguish the  
225 official from the position, For. Oliveros suggested multiple columns containing the  
226 name of the office, the official, and the translation of the two.  
227
- 228 • For. Garcia summarized the agreements. For the term “division,” the prescribed  
229 translation is “dibisyon.” Dir. Capistrano disagreed and commented that the term  
230 should be a Filipino word. She instructed that the use of the terms should be  
231 consulted with the KWF. The proposed suggestions/comments shall be  
232 incorporated in the draft policy, which shall then be forwarded to the proponent for  
233 concurrence or refinement. Since the BMB  
234
- 235 • Ms. Ibulan requested for a representative from the PPS to join Usec. Antiporda once  
236 the DENR is awarded under the Selyo ng Kahusayan.  
237
- 238 • For. Oliveros moved for the termination of the discussions on the proposed policy,  
239 subject to the comments/suggestions of the PTWG.  
240

241 ***Agreements:***

- 242
- 243 • Only the DENR Mission, Vision, Mandate, Office names, and Signages, shall be  
244 included in the annex of the draft DMC.
- 245 • Distinguish the translations for names of regional offices from the designations of  
246 officials.
- 247 • Consider using the translated terms already adopted by the BMB.
- 248 • The translation for division should be consistent. It was agreed that for “division,”  
249 the translation shall be “dibisyon.”
- 250 • Proponent to consult the KWF regarding the proposed translations before finalizing  
251 the revised draft policy.
- 252 • PSD to consider/incorporate the comments/suggestions of the PTWG in the draft  
253 policy. The revised policy shall then be forwarded to the proponent for  
254 concurrence/refinement. Thereafter, the same will be circulated to the  
255 Undersecretaries concerned for vetting/concurrence.  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260

261 **3. Draft DMC re Guidelines for Establishment and Management of LGU-Managed**  
262 **Urban Parks in the Philippines**

263  
264 *Presentation and Discussions:*

- 265
- 266 • Ms. Pintor of the ERDB discussed the background for the crafting of the draft  
267 manual. She presented the rationale, objectives, etc.  
268
  - 269 • For. Oliveros inquired if the Manual was already presented to the LGUs. In reply,  
270 Ms. Pintor stated that the presentation was done with the LGUs that were used as  
271 study sites. For. Oliveros suggested that the issuance may be in the form of a joint  
272 circular with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).  
273
  - 274 • Dir. Capistrano commented that management of urban parks is a devolved function  
275 of the LGU. She asked as to why the manual was proposed belatedly. She also  
276 inquired if the proposed manual will not conflict with the issuance by the FMB.  
277 Ms. Pintor answered that based on their research in the project sites, LGU depend  
278 on the design of the hired landscape contractor. Per coordination with the FMB, the  
279 scope of their activities are different.  
280
  - 281 • Ms. Argean Guiaya (BMB) informed that currently, the BMB is also crafting a  
282 DENR Administrative Order (DAO) regarding urban biodiversity implementation.  
283 She mentioned that part of this is the implementation at the local level. In 2018,  
284 BMB issued a technical bulletin (TB) on urban biodiversity assessment. In the  
285 BMB's proposed policy, they adopted the Singapore biodiversity index. The  
286 Bureau is also coordinating with the DILG regarding the drafting of a joint policy  
287 on the matter, considering that one of the components of the policy is the  
288 establishment of green spaces, and part of the DAO is the integration and  
289 mainstreaming in local development plans such as CLUPs, among others. She also  
290 informed that the urban biodiversity, especially the establishment of green spaces  
291 is included in the DILG's Seal of Good Governance. As such, she suggested that  
292 the BMB, FMB and ERDB may come up with a joint policy on green spaces. Dir.  
293 Capistrano manifested her agreement with the suggestion of Ms. Guiaya.  
294
  - 295 • For. Aquino suggested revisiting the ERDB study regarding the species to be  
296 planted in urban parks, which may be an input in the crafting of the policy. She  
297 agreed that the bureaus should jointly work in the drafting of the policy. The list of  
298 species in the annexes should be reviewed and that indigenous flowering plants  
299 should be considered. In addition, the species should be grouped, and that there  
300 should be recommended species depending on the size of urban parks. According  
301 to her, endemic/indigenous species may also be prioritized.  
302
  - 303 • For. Oliveros lauded the suggestion for the three bureaus to work together to  
304 harmonize the proposed policies, for joint issuance with the DILG.  
305
  - 306 • Engr. Aguda noted that no city in Metro Manila was considered in the study. In  
307 reply, Ms. Pintor informed that Metro Manila was not considered since studies  
308 have already been conducted by different academic institutions in the NCR.  
309

- 310 • For. Rey asked on the impact of development by LGUs of urban parks within  
311 protected areas. Ms. Pintor responded that LGUs have delineated green spaces and  
312 PAs are treated differently.  
313
- 314 • For. Oliveros suggested considering the proposal of For. Rey, defining the scope of  
315 the draft policy. Considering the NCR setting, DENR NCR could be included in  
316 the discussions. Dir. Capistrano manifested her agreement with the suggestion of  
317 For. Oliveros. She added that the proposal should be consulted with stakeholders.  
318
- 319 • It was agreed that the bureaus should conduct a meeting to come up with a  
320 harmonized policy on urban parks. Dir. Capistrano remarked that the proposal is a  
321 priority policy since this is related to the devolution of functions to LGUs.  
322
- 323 • For. Oliveros suggested coming up with a policy adopting the manual which  
324 contain the FMB, BMB and ERDB concerns. Ms. Aquino suggested the crafting of  
325 a DAO instead within which to anchor the policy for the adoption of the manual.  
326
- 327 • It was requested that the ERDB convene the meeting with the BMB and FMB to  
328 discuss the harmonization of policies.  
329
- 330 • For. Oliveros moved for the termination of the discussion on the proposed policy,  
331 subject to the agreement for the BMB, FMB and ERDB to meet to come up with a  
332 harmonized policy.  
333

334 *Agreements:*  
335

- 336 • It was agreed that the proposed policy shall be put on hold.  
337 • ERDB to conduct a meeting with the BMB and FMB to discuss the harmonization  
338 and crafting of an appropriate policy (or adoption of Manual) on urban  
339 parks/biodiversity/greening, which will be issued jointly with DILG.  
340

341 There having no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.  
342  
343

344 Prepared by the Secretariat  
345

346 Noted by:  
347  
348  
349

350 **MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO**  
351 OIC Director, Policy and Planning Service