



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Bureau Directors**  
Forest Management Bureau  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Land Management Bureau  
Ecosystem Research Development Bureau

**The Directors**  
Legal Affairs Service  
Policy and Planning Service  
Climate Change Service

**The Regional Executive Directors**  
Regions II, III, IV-A

FROM : **The Director**  
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS RE: THE SIERRA MADRE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FROM THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 01 March 2023

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In reference to the electronic mail dated 28 February 2023, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives will have a face-to-face meeting on **March 6, 2023 (Monday), at 9:00 AM at Aquino-Makalintal Hall, SWA Bldg. House of Representatives, Q.C.** to deliberate the Unnumbered Substitute Bill to House Bills No. 1214 and 1972, entitled "AN ACT CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR," authored by Reps. Dy V, Nograles (J), et al.

In this regard, we are **requesting comments and recommendations on the said bill on or before March 3, 2023, at 5 PM** via email at [denrll@denr.gov.ph](mailto:denrll@denr.gov.ph). Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the invitation letter, agenda, transmittal letters to the Committee and a copy of the Substitute Bill for your reference.

Your attendance is highly encouraged.

**ROMIROSE B. PADIN**

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs

OSEC-2023-001232: Fwd: CWM Invitation for March 06, 2023 Meeting

From: Office of the DENR Secretary (osec@denr.gov.ph)  
To: denrlegislative@yahoo.com  
Cc: osec.referral@denr.gov.ph  
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 04:32 PM GMT+8

Ma'am/Sir,

This is to respectfully refer, for information and appropriate action, the herein invitation to a meeting on March 06, 2023.

We will appreciate informing this office, citing document number OSEC-2023-001232, of the action taken on the matter.

Thank you.

**Office of the Secretary  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **House Committee on Ways And Means** <[committee.waysandmeans@house.gov.ph](mailto:committee.waysandmeans@house.gov.ph)>  
Date: Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 3:58 PM  
Subject: CWM Invitation for March 06, 2023 Meeting  
To: [osec@denr.gov.ph](mailto:osec@denr.gov.ph) <[osec@denr.gov.ph](mailto:osec@denr.gov.ph)>  
Cc: [denr.jeanocampo@gmail.com](mailto:denr.jeanocampo@gmail.com) <[denr.jeanocampo@gmail.com](mailto:denr.jeanocampo@gmail.com)>

Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

February 28, 2023

**SEC. MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA**

*Department Secretary*

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear **Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga**:

The **Committee on Ways and Means** will be having a **meeting/briefing** on the date and time indicated hereunder:

*Date:*           **March 06, 2023 (Monday)**

*Time:*           **9:00 AM**

*Venue:*          **Aquino-Makalintal Hall, SWA Bldg.**

**House of Representatives, Q.C.**

*Agenda:*        **Please see attachment(s)**

In this regard, we would like to invite you to participate in the said meeting and share your views, comments and recommendations on pertinent issues included in the agenda.

Should you be unable to attend the scheduled meeting, may we request you to send a representative on your behalf, with a written authorization designating the concerned officer as your duly authorized representative.

***As part of the House of Representatives Health and Safety Protocol, you are required to undergo a Covid-19 antigen test at the lobby before entering the House premises. Please allot at least 30 minutes for the procedure. Alternatively, you may also present a negative Antigen test result within the last 24 hours from an accredited provider and signed by a licensed physician.***

Thank you and we look forward to your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

**JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

*Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means*

For the Chairman:

**(Sgd) TEEJAY WAINU E. HERNANDEZ**

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CGEP 1 Sierra-Madre committee sub 01feb2023 (1).pdf  
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CGEP 1 Transmittal to W&M signed by Chair ELO (2).pdf  
216kB

# AGENDA

Committee on Ways and Means  
March 06, 2023 (Monday) at 9:00 A.M.  
Aquino-Makalintal Hall, SWA Bldg.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE
- III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON FEBRUARY 13 AND 20, 2023
- IV. AUTOMATIC REFERRALS

a. From the Committee on Agriculture and Food

FIRST DELIBERATION on the Unnumbered Substitute Bill to House Bills No. 1096, 1194, 2643, 3250, and 3506, entitled "AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY BY STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR BAMBOO PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," authored by Reps. Villafuerte Jr., Villafuerte (M), et al.

Revenue Provisions:

Sec. 6. Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center. - x x x

f) x x x

Sec. 9. Incentives for Bamboo in Plantation Development. - x x x

Guests/Resource Persons:

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte | Author  |
| 2. | Rep. Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte         | Author  |
| 3. | Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga           | Author and Chairperson<br>Committee on Agriculture & Food |
| 4. | Sec. Benjamin Diokno                    | Department of Finance                                     |
| 5. | Usec. Domingo Panganiban                | Department of Agriculture                                 |
| 6. | Comr. Romeo D. Lumagui, Jr.             | Bureau of Internal Revenue                                |
| 7. | Exec. Dir. Marlene A. Lucero-Calubag    | Natl. Tax Research Center                                 |

b. From the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries

FIRST DELIBERATION on the Unnumbered Substitute Bill to House Bills No. 1023, 1329, 3833 & 4109, entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION, REGULATION, AND OPERATION OF COOPERATIVE BANKS," authored by Reps. Garcia (P), Espares and Paduano

Revenue Provisions:

Sec. 22. Limitations on Lending Authority. - x x x

Sec. 29. Privileges of Cooperative Banks. - x x x

Guests/Resource Persons:

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Rep. Pablo John F. Garcia               | Author   |
| 2. | Rep. Felimon F. Espares                 | Author   |
| 3. | Rep. Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano | Author   |
| 4. | Rep. Irwin C. Tieng                     | Chairperson<br>Committee on Banks & Financial Intermediaries |

5. Sec. Benjamin Diokno
6. Governor Felipe M. Medalla
7. Comr. Romeo D. Lumagui, Jr.
8. Usec. Joseph B. Encabo
9. Exec. Dir. Marlene A. Lucero-Calubag

Department of Finance  
 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  
 Bureau of Internal Revenue  
 Cooperative Development Authority  
 Natl. Tax Research Center

**c. From the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization**

**First Deliberation on the Following Measures:**

1. Unnumbered Substitute Bill to House Bills No. 1214 and 1972, entitled "AN ACT CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR," authored by Reps. Dy V, Nograles (J), et al.

Revenue Provisions:

- Sec. 4. Purposes and Functions of the Authority. - x x x  
 (f) x x x  
 Sec. 5. Regulatory Fees. - x x x  
 Sec. 6. The Corporate Powers of the Authority. - x x x  
 (h) x x x  
 Sec. 9. Tax Subsidy. - x x x

**Guests/Resource Persons:**

- |    |                                      |   |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Rep. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V         | Author  |
| 2. | Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles   | Author  |
| 3. | Rep. Edwin L. Olivarez               | Chairperson<br>Committee on Gov't Enterprises & Privatization |
| 4. | Sec. Benjamin Diokno                 | Department of Finance   |
| 5. | Sec. Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga        | Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources                      |
| 6. | Comr. Romeo D. Lumagui, Jr.          | Bureau of Internal Revenue                                    |
| 7. | Exec. Dir. Marlene A. Lucero-Calubag | Natl. Tax Research Center                                     |
| 8. | Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua             | Union of Local Authorities of the Phils.                      |
| 9. | Mr. Allen A. Capuyan                 | National Commission on Indigenous Peoples                     |

2. Unnumbered Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 1346, entitled "AN ACT CREATING THE GENERAL SANTOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, TRANSFERRING EXISTING ASSETS OF THE GENERAL SANTOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO THE AUTHORITY, VESTING THE AUTHORITY WITH POWER TO ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE GENERAL SANTOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," authored by Rep. Acharon, et al.

Revenue Provisions:

- Sec. 4. Duties and Functions. - x x x  
 (h) x x x  
 Sec. 7. Functions of the Board. - x x x  
 (e) x x x  
 Sec. 13. Borrowing Power. - x x x  
 Sec. 17. Transfer of Liabilities and Debts. - x x x

**Guests/Resource Persons:**

- |    |                                      |   |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Rep. Loreto B. Acharon               | Author  |
| 2. | Rep. Edwin L. Olivarez               | Chairperson<br>Committee on Gov't Enterprises & Privatization |
| 3. | Sec. Benjamin Diokno                 | Department of Finance   |
| 4. | Comr. Romeo D. Lumagui, Jr.          | Bureau of Internal Revenue                                    |
| 5. | Exec. Dir. Marlene A. Lucero-Calubag | Natl. Tax Research Center                                     |
| 6. | Capt. Manuel Antonio Tamayo          | Civil Aviation Authority of the Phils.                        |

**V. FIRST DELIBERATION ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:**

- a. **HOUSE BILL NO. 374**, entitled "AN ACT PENALIZING THE SMUGGLING OF FOREIGN CURRENCY AND OTHER MONETARY INSTRUMENTS IN BULK INTO OR OUT OF THE PHILIPPINES," authored by Rep. Salceda
- b. **HOUSE BILL NO. 3254**, entitled "AN ACT PENALIZING THE IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION OF CASH IN BULK," authored by Rep. Colada

**Guests/Resource Persons:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Rep. Lex Anthony Cris A. Colada       | Author   |
| 2. Sec. Benjamin Diokno                  | Department of Finance  |
| 3. Governor & Chairman Felipe M. Medalla | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and<br>Anti-Money Laundering Council |
| 4. Comr. Bienvenido Y. Rubio             | Bureau of Customs  |
| 5. Comr. Atty. Norman G. Tansingco       | Bureau of Immigration  |

**VI. OTHER MATTERS**

**INCORPORATION IN THE DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 611**, entitled "*A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPOSITION OF VALUE-ADDED TAX ON IMPORTATIONS AND LOCAL PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES DIRECTLY AND EXCLUSIVELY USED IN THE REGISTERED PROJECT OR ACTIVITY OF DOMESTIC MARKET ENTERPRISES IN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES,*" authored by Rep. Roman

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**



**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION**

**CTSS-I, Committee Affairs Department**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Speaker RVM Building, House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City  
Tel./Fax No. (02)-8951-3028; Email: [committee.governmententerprises@house.gov.ph](mailto:committee.governmententerprises@house.gov.ph)

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February 1, 2023

**The Honorable**  
**JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Ways and Means  
House of Representatives

Dear **Chairman Salceda**:


Please be informed that the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization approved **House Bill No. 1214**, entitled: "**AN ACT ENHANCING THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE RANGE IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE SIERRA MADE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**", introduced by Rep. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V, and **House Bill No. 1972**, entitled: "**AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE REGION, CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**", introduced by Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles,

In view hereof, may we request the comments and recommendations of the Committee on Ways and Means on the hereto attached draft copy of the substitute version of said measures, entitled:

**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND**  
**PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**  
Chairperson



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 1214 and 1972)

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Introduced by Representatives Faustino 'Inno' A. Dy V, Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles, Edwin L. Olivarez, Wilton "Tonton" T. Kho, Robert Raymund Estrella, Edsel A. Galeos, Steve Chiongbian Solon, Bonifacio L. Bosita, Irwin C. Tieng, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jefferson F. Khonghun, Loreto "Amben" S. Amante, Joey Sarte Salceda, Rossana "Ria" Vergara, Lorna Silverio, Salvador A. Pleyto, Christopherson "Coco" Yap, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" Paduano, France L. Castro, Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Christian Yap, Ed Christopher Go, and Emigdio Tanjuatco III

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE CONSERVATION AND**  
**DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND**  
**FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**CHAPTER I**

1 **TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND CREATION OF THE AUTHORITY**

2 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Sierra Madre  
3 Conservation and Development Authority (SMCDA) Act".

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
5 to promote and accelerate the development and balanced growth of the Sierra  
6 Madre Mountain Range in the Island of Luzon and its surrounding areas, hereinafter  
7 referred to as the Sierra Madre Region, within the context of national and regional  
8 goals and policies for social and economic development, and with due regard for  
9 environmental management and protection, preservation of the quality of human life  
10 and ecological systems, and the prevention of undue ecological disturbance,  
11 deterioration, and illegal activities.

1 Likewise, it is the declared policy of the State to enhance the benefits derived  
2 from natural and indigenous resources in the Sierra Madre Region, to promote the  
3 economic and social development of the area in particular, and the country in  
4 general.

5 Moreover, it is the policy of the State to recognize and promote the rights of  
6 the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) within the  
7 framework of national unity and development, as well as to protect their rights to  
8 their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being.

9 For the purpose of this Act, the Sierra Madre Region shall refer to the Sierra  
10 Madre Range and its surrounding areas, straddling the territorial jurisdiction of the  
11 provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Aurora,  
12 Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, and Quezon.

13 **SEC. 3. *Creation of the Sierra Madre Conservation and Development***  
14 ***Authority.*** - There is hereby created a government corporation to be known as the  
15 Sierra Madre Conservation and Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as  
16 the Authority, which shall be organized within ninety (90) days upon the approval of  
17 this Act, under the Office of the President of the Philippines.

18 The Authority shall execute the powers and functions herein vested and  
19 conferred upon it, and shall aid in carrying out the aims and purposes set forth  
20 below, to the fullest extent possible.

21 **SEC. 4. *Purposes and Functions of the Authority.*** - The Authority shall  
22 have the following purposes and functions:

- 23 (a) To establish the boundary and make a comprehensive survey of the  
24 physical and natural resources and potentialities of the Sierra Madre  
25 Region, particularly its social and economic conditions, hydrologic  
26 characteristics, power potentials, scenic and tourist spots, and on the basis  
27 thereof, draft a comprehensive and detailed plan designed to conserve and  
28 to optimally utilize the resources within the Sierra Madre Region to promote  
29 its rapid social and economic development, and upon the plan approval by  
30 the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), implement the  
31 same, including projects in line with the said plan: *Provided, That the*  
32 *implementation of all development programs on energy resources shall*  
33 *require the prior consent of the Department of Energy (DOE), to ensure*  
34 *that plans and programs are consistent with the National Energy Program*

1 and the Philippine Development Plan: *Provided, further,* That the  
2 management of protected areas defined under existing laws within the  
3 Sierra Madre Region shall be subject to the monitoring and supervision of  
4 the Authority, and shall be based on the approved Protected Area  
5 Management Plan (PAMP): *Provided, furthermore,* That the Authority shall  
6 secure the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from concerned  
7 ICCs/IPs, pursuant to Republic Act No. 8731 or the "Indigenous Peoples  
8 Rights Act of 1997", as well as to conduct public consultations with local  
9 stakeholders.

10 (b) To provide the machinery to extend the necessary planning, management,  
11 and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors in the Sierra  
12 Madre Region;

13 (c) To make recommendations to appropriate agencies on the peso or dollar  
14 financing, technical support, physical assistance, and the level of priority to  
15 be accorded the agricultural, industrial, and commercial projects, soliciting  
16 or requiring direct help from or through the government or any of its  
17 instrumentalities;

18 (d) To decide whether to approve or disapprove all plans, programs, and  
19 projects proposed by the local government offices or agencies within the  
20 region, public corporations, and private persons or enterprises, if such  
21 plans, programs, or projects are related to the Authority, as envisioned in  
22 this Act. In this connection, the Authority shall issue the necessary  
23 clearance for approved plans, programs, and projects within thirty (30)  
24 days from submission thereof, unless the proposals are not in consonance  
25 with the Authority or shall cause adverse impacts in the Sierra Madre  
26 Region, such as deforestation: *Provided,* That the Authority is hereby  
27 empowered to institute necessary legal proceedings against any person  
28 who shall commence or continue to implement any project, plan, or  
29 program within the Sierra Madre Region, without clearance from the  
30 Authority: *Provided, further,* That any local government unit (LGU), office,  
31 agency, public corporation, private person, or enterprise whose plans,  
32 projects, or programs have been disapproved may appeal the decision of  
33 the Authority to the NEDA within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the  
34 disapproval, and the NEDA decision on the matter shall be final.

1 Reasonable processing fees, as may be fixed by the Authority's Board of  
2 Directors, shall be collected by the Authority for the processing of plans,  
3 programs, or projects: *Provided, furthermore,* That expansion plans shall  
4 be considered as new plans, subject to review of the Authority and payment  
5 of processing fees: *Provided, finally,* That the Authority and all national and  
6 local government offices, agencies, and public corporations shall  
7 coordinate their plans, programs, and projects, including licensing  
8 procedures, with respect to the Sierra Madre Region, to draw up a Sierra  
9 Madre regional development plan, which shall be binding upon all  
10 parties concerned upon approval of the NEDA;

11 (e) To engage in agriculture, industrial, or other activities which may be  
12 necessary or may directly contribute to the socio-economic development  
13 of the Sierra Madre Region, and for this purpose, whether autonomously  
14 or in consideration with private persons or entities, to organize, finance,  
15 invest in, and operate subsidiary corporations: *Provided,* That the Authority  
16 shall solely engage, unless public interest requires otherwise, in activities  
17 like new ventures or are clearly beyond the scope, capacity, or interest of  
18 public enterprises due to considerations such as geography, technical, or  
19 capital requirements, returns on investment, and risk;

20 (f) To plan, program, finance, or undertake infrastructure projects, such as  
21 river, flood and tidal control, wastewater and sewerage, dams and water  
22 supply, roads, irrigation, housing, and other related projects, when required  
23 within the context of its development plans and programs, including  
24 readjustment, relocation, or settlement of the population within the Sierra  
25 Madre Region, as may be deemed necessary and beneficial by the  
26 Authority: *Provided,* That should any project be financed wholly or partly by  
27 the Authority, it is hereby authorized to collect reasonable fees and tolls as  
28 fixed by the Authority's Board of Directors, subject to the approval of the  
29 NEDA, from users or beneficiaries thereof, to recover costs of construction,  
30 operation, and maintenance of such projects: *Provided, further,* That if the  
31 Authority finds it necessary to undertake such infrastructure projects which  
32 are classified as social overhead capital projects, as determined by the  
33 NEDA, the Authority shall be authorized to receive financial assistance

1 from the government, with a corresponding amount necessary to carry  
2 out the said projects, subject to terms and conditions imposed by the  
3 government, upon recommendation of the NEDA: *Provided, finally*, That  
4 the amount necessary for the purpose is hereby authorized to be  
5 appropriated out of the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise  
6 appropriated;

7 (g) To facilitate and extend financial assistance or act as surety or guarantor,  
8 to eligible agricultural, industrial, and commercial enterprises;

9 (h) To require the cities and municipalities within the Sierra Madre Region to  
10 pass appropriate zoning ordinances and other regulatory measures  
11 necessary to carry out the objectives of the Authority, and enforce the same  
12 with the assistance of the Authority;

13 (i) To exercise water rights over public waters within the Sierra Madre Region  
14 whenever necessary to carry out the Authority's projects, the provisions of  
15 existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding; and

16 (j) To undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration,  
17 development, maintenance, and protection of the Sierra Madre Region,  
18 subject to the approval of the NEDA, which the Authority shall carry out  
19 with the assistance and support of all national government agencies and  
20 instrumentalities and LGUs involved in natural resources conservation,  
21 exploration, and development.

22 **SEC. 5. *Regulatory Fees.*** – The Authority is hereby empowered to collect  
23 fees for the use of all resources for functional purposes including recreation,  
24 resource extraction, energy development, and disposal of all types of wastes. All  
25 the fees collected shall be used for the management, development, and  
26 reforestation and protection of forest covers and watershed areas of the Sierra  
27 Madre Region: *Provided*, That the rates of the fees to be collected shall be subject  
28 to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

29  
30 **CHAPTER II**  
31 **CORPORATE POWERS**

32 **SEC. 6. *The Corporate Powers of the Authority.*** – The Authority shall have  
33 the following powers and functions:

- 1 (a) To succeed on its corporate name;
- 2 (b) To sue and be sued in such corporate name;
- 3 (c) To adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal;
- 4 (d) To adopt, amend, and repeal its by-laws;
- 5 (e) To enter into contracts of any kind and description, to enable it to carry out
- 6 its purposes and functions under this Act;
- 7 (f) To acquire, buy, purchase, hold, or lease personal and real property, as it
- 8 deems necessary or convenient in the conduct of its business, or in relation
- 9 with carrying out its purposes under this Act, and to lease, mortgage, sell,
- 10 alienate, or otherwise encumber, utilize, exploit, or dispose any personal
- 11 and real property held by the Authority, subject to prior or existing individual
- 12 or communal right of private parties, or of the government or any agency
- 13 or enterprise thereof;
- 14 (g) To exercise the right of eminent domain whenever the Authority deems it
- 15 necessary for the attainment of the objectives of this Act;
- 16 (h) To borrow funds from any local or foreign financial institutions, independent
- 17 of the bonds it may issue or may continue to issue, to carry out the
- 18 purposes of the Authority under this Act;
- 19 (i) To purchase, hold, alienate, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise dispose of, the
- 20 shares of the capital stock or any bond, securities, or other evidence of
- 21 indebtedness created by any corporation, co-partnership, or government
- 22 agencies or instrumentalities; and being the owner of said stock, to
- 23 exercise all the rights of ownership, including the right to vote thereon:
- 24 *Provided*, That the Authority shall not invest its funds in any highly risky
- 25 debt instruments, issued without recourse to commercial banks or
- 26 investment houses, as well as in any highly speculative stocks;
- 27 (j) To carry on its business, or for the purpose of attaining or furthering any of
- 28 its objectives, to perform any and all acts which a corporation, co-
- 29 partnership, or natural person is authorized to perform under the current
- 30 laws or which may be enacted hereafter; and
- 31 (k) To issue rules and regulations necessary to effectively carry out the powers
- 32 and purposes provided, including the plans, programs, and projects of the
- 33 Authority, subject to the approval of the NEDA, the same to take effect thirty
- 34 (30) days after publication thereof, in a newspaper of general circulation.

1       **SEC. 7. Capitalization and Financing.** – The Authority shall have an  
2 authorized capital of One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) which shall be fully  
3 subscribed by the Republic of the Philippines: *Provided*, That an initial operating  
4 capital in the amount of One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby  
5 authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not  
6 otherwise appropriated.

7       **SEC. 8. Operating Expenses.** – For the operating expenses of the Authority,  
8 the sum of One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated  
9 annually for five (5) years from the general fund of the National Government not  
10 otherwise appropriated from the date of approval of this Act, unless the NEDA may  
11 recommend a higher amount.

12       **SEC. 9. Tax Subsidy.** – The Authority may avail of the tax expenditure subsidy  
13 administered by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB), subject to the  
14 provisions of Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the National Internal Revenue Code of  
15 1997, as amended, Executive Order No. 93, as amended, and the General  
16 Appropriations Act.

17       **SEC. 10. Guarantee by the Government.** – The Republic of the Philippines  
18 hereby guarantees the payment by the Authority, both the principal and the interest  
19 of the bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or such other obligations issued by the  
20 Authority by virtue of this Act, and shall pay the principal and interest in the event  
21 that the Authority fails to do so. In case the Authority is unable to pay the principal  
22 and interest, the Department of Finance shall pay the amount thereof which is  
23 hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise  
24 appropriated, and thereupon, to the extent of the amounts paid, the Government of  
25 the Republic of the Philippines shall succeed to all rights of the holders of such  
26 bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or other obligations, unless the sum paid by  
27 the Republic of the Philippines shall be refunded by the Authority within a  
28 reasonable time.

29       **SEC. 11. Subsidiaries.** – The Authority shall have the power to form,  
30 establish, organize, and maintain a subsidiary corporation or corporations, subject  
31 to the review of the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) and the approval  
32 of the President of the Philippines pursuant to Section 27 of R.A. No. 10149. Such  
33 subsidiary or subsidiaries shall be formed in accordance with the Revised  
34 Corporation Code of the Philippines and existing rules and regulations promulgated

1 by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), unless otherwise provided in  
2 this Act. In all cases, the Authority shall initially own at least fifty-one percent (51%)  
3 of the capital stock of a subsidiary. The Authority shall also initially hold the majority  
4 seats in the Board of Directors of the subsidiaries, one (1) director of whom shall be  
5 the Chairperson of the Authority, and a second director shall be the General  
6 Manager of the Authority, or a designated representative. The officials and  
7 employees of such subsidiaries shall be deemed private sector workers whose  
8 rights and privileges are governed by the provisions of the Labor Code of the  
9 Philippines and other pertinent laws.

10  
11 **CHAPTER III**  
12 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

13 **SEC. 12. Board of Directors; Composition.** – The corporate powers of the  
14 Authority shall be vested in and exercised by the Board of Directors, hereinafter  
15 referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of nine (9) members from the  
16 government sector who shall represent their agencies in their *ex officio* capacity, to  
17 wit: the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of the NEDA, the Secretary of the  
18 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Secretary of the  
19 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Secretary of the Department of Energy  
20 (DOE), the Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP),  
21 a Provincial Governor representing the provinces comprising the Sierra Madre  
22 Region, who shall be designated and elected by the ten (10) provincial governors,  
23 a city or municipal mayor representing the cities and municipalities comprising the  
24 Sierra Madre Region, who shall be designated and elected by the respective  
25 mayors, and the General Manager of the Authority to be appointed by the President  
26 of the Philippines, for a term of one (1) year, and may be reappointed yearly by the  
27 President of the Philippines, with no limit to the number of reappointments:  
28 *Provided, That* the Executive Secretary shall be appointed as the Chairperson and  
29 the designated Provincial Governor as Vice Chairperson. There shall be a  
30 Corporate Secretary who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

31 The officials next in rank to the above-mentioned members shall serve as  
32 permanent alternate members, attend meetings of the Board in the absence of their  
33 principals, and receive the corresponding per diems.



1           **SEC. 13. Board Meetings.** – The Board shall meet at least once a month. The  
2 meeting shall be presided by the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, as may be  
3 authorized by the former.

4           **SEC. 14. Quorum; Effect of Vacancies.** – The majority of the members of  
5 the Board shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of the majority present  
6 shall be necessary at all times to pass or approve any act or resolution. Vacancies  
7 in the Board as long as there shall be a quorum in attendance, shall not impair the  
8 powers of the Board to exercise the functions of the Authority.

9           **SEC. 15. Per Diems and Allowances.** – The members of the Board shall  
10 receive per diems and allowances for every meeting attended, to be determined by  
11 the Governance Commission on GOCCs (GCG), as provided in Section 23 of R.A.  
12 10149.

13           **SEC. 16. Power and Functions of the Board of Directors.** – The Board shall  
14 exercise the following powers and functions:

- 15           (a) To formulate, prescribe, issue, amend, and repeal resolutions and rules  
16           and regulations that govern the conduct of business of the Authority;
- 17           (b) To appoint officials of the Authority from division heads and above, and  
18           others of comparable rank, including the Senior Deputy General Manager  
19           and six Deputy General Managers, upon the recommendation of the  
20           General Manager;
- 21           (c) To suspend, remove, or otherwise discipline for just cause, the officials  
22           appointed by the Board, through a majority vote of all members of the  
23           Board;
- 24           (d) To approve the annual or supplemental budgets of the Authority; and
- 25           (e) To do other acts and perform other functions as may be necessary, to carry  
26           out the provisions of this Charter.

27

28

#### CHAPTER IV

29

#### MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL

30

31

32

**SEC. 17. Powers and Functions of the General Manager.** – The General  
Manager shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority who shall have the  
following powers and duties:

33

34

- (a) Submit draft policies and measures which are deemed necessary to carry  
out the purposes and provisions of this Act, for consideration of the Board;

- 1 (b) Execute and administer the policies, plans, programs, and projects  
2 approved by the Board;
- 3 (c) Direct and supervise the operation and internal administration of the  
4 Authority. The General Manager may delegate certain administrative  
5 responsibilities to other officers of the Authority, subject to the rules and  
6 regulations promulgated by the Board;
- 7 (d) Appoint officials and employees below the rank of Deputy General  
8 Managers to positions in the approved budget, upon written  
9 recommendation of the Deputy General Managers concerned, in  
10 accordance with civil service rules;
- 11 (e) Submit quarterly reports to the Board on personnel selection, placement,  
12 and training;
- 13 (f) Submit to the Office of the President an annual report and other reports  
14 that may be required, including the details of the annual and supplemental  
15 budgets of the Authority; and
- 16 (g) Perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law or  
17 directed by the Board.

18 **SEC. 18. General Manager's Residence.** – The General Manager shall  
19 establish residence within the Sierra Madre Region and shall not engage in any  
20 business, profession, or calling other than those connected in the performance of  
21 official duties as General Manager of the Authority.

22 **SEC. 19. Key Officials and Departments.** – In carrying out the activities of  
23 the Authority, the General Manager shall be assisted by a Senior Deputy General  
24 Manager who shall have such powers, duties, and functions as may be delegated  
25 by the General Manager, and shall act as General Manager in the absence of the  
26 latter, or during unforeseen events like sudden incapacity, until such time that a new  
27 General Manager is duly appointed.

28 The Authority shall have the following departments under the direct  
29 supervision and control of the General Manager:

- 30 (a) *Administrative Department* which shall be responsible for providing  
31 services relating to personnel, training, information, records, supplies,  
32 general services, equipment and security;
- 33 (b) *Legal Department*, to be headed by the General Counsel, who shall  
34 represent the Authority in legal matters and proceedings. This department

1 shall be responsible for providing legal advice and assistance on legal  
2 matters;

3 (c) *Finance Department* which shall be responsible for providing staff advice  
4 and assistance in budgetary and financial matters, and safekeeping of  
5 corporate assets;

6 (d) *Project Management Department* which shall be responsible for the  
7 operation of approved projects, and conduct project evaluation and  
8 management improvement matters;

9 (e) *Planning and Project Development Department* which shall be responsible  
10 for providing services relating to planning, programming, statistics, and  
11 project development; and

12 (f) *Engineering and Technical Services Department*, which shall be  
13 responsible for providing services relating to detailed engineering plans,  
14 technical advisory, construction operations, and maintenance of project  
15 facilities.

16 The business and activities of each of these departments shall be directed by  
17 an officer to be known as Deputy General Manager.

18 The Board may create other departments, divisions, and positions as may be  
19 deemed necessary for the efficient, economical, and effective conduct of the  
20 activities of the Authority.

21 **SEC. 20. Audit.** – The Board of Directors shall provide and appoint an Internal  
22 Auditor who shall formulate an auditing system for the Authority. The auditor shall  
23 prepare semestral and annual reports covering the financial condition and  
24 operations of the Authority to the Board. The audit reports shall contain a statement  
25 of the resources and liabilities, including earnings and expenses, the amount of  
26 paid-up capital, surplus, reserves and profits, as well as losses, bad debts and other  
27 data which, under auditing rules and regulations, are considered necessary to  
28 accurately describe the financial condition and operation of the Authority. The  
29 auditor shall report and be directly responsible to the Board.

30 The Commission on Audit (COA) shall appoint an officer who shall be the full-  
31 time auditor of the Authority, and its subsidiaries. The COA may also assign  
32 essential personnel to assist the said representative in the performance of its duties.

33 **SEC. 21. Compensation.** – All personnel benefits and compensation shall be  
34 subject to the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

1 **SEC. 22. Legal Counsel.** – Without prejudice to the hiring of an outside  
2 counsel, the Government Corporate Counsel shall be the ex officio legal  
3 counsel of the Authority.

## 4

5 **CHAPTER V**

### 6 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

7 **SEC. 23. Supervision.** – The Authority shall be under the direct control and  
8 supervision of the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

9 **SEC. 24. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days  
10 from the approval of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and  
11 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The implementing rules and  
12 regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general  
13 circulation.

14 **SEC. 25. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be held  
15 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain  
16 in full force and effect.

17 **SEC. 26. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive issuances, or parts thereof  
18 which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

19 **SEC. 27. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
20 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

21 Approved,

*ewen/mtv/01/02/2023*



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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02 December 2022

**HON. EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

Chairperson  
Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization  
House of Representatives  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

THRU: **MR. MARLON T. VALENCIA**  
Committee Secretary

Dear **Rep. Olivarez**:

In reference to the electronic mail received by our office on 18 November 2022, requesting the Department's comments on the following bills:

1. House Bill No. 1214, entitled: "AN ACT ENHANCING THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE RANGE IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE SIERRA MADRE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR" by Rep. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V, and
2. House Bill No. 1972, entitled: "AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE REGION, CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" by Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles.

We are respectfully transmitting to your good office consolidated comments from the concerned Bureaus, agencies, and offices as follows:

**A. DENR Forest Management Bureau (FMB)**

The Bureau recognizes the noble intention of the proposed legislative measures to create the Sierra Madre Development Authority Which will take the lead in the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive and long-term plan to conserve and protect the Resources within the Sierra Madre region within the sustainable development framework. However, we would like to provide the following comments on the proposed House Bills:

1. It is suggested to consolidate House Bill No. 1972 and House Bill No. 1214 into one bill since both house bills have similar intention and provisions.
2. Consider adopting "Sierra Madre Conservation and Development Authority" as the name for the Authority consistent with House Bill No. 1214 to emphasize its conservation functions.
3. Indicate that the purpose and functions of the Authority shall be in accordance with the existing rules and regulations of the DENR and other concerned government agencies in the management of the Sierra Madre region.

## **B. DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)**

We believe that the creation of a Sierra Madre Management Authority led by the Executive Secretary and composed of Heads of national and local agencies may not be fully feasible administratively. Most of the offices involved have so much concerns on their own and the actual management of the area will be delegated to the local agencies on the ground. Besides, when similar areas are identified under similar authority, it would be expected that the same management set-up no less, will be instituted and with the pressing issues and concerns identified in the prefatory statements, the extended functions of the offices will be rendered complex.

It would be advantageous to create a management unit whose primary function is the management of the identified area. One way is declaring the whole area as a national park with sub-management units under each covered region/province. These sub-management units will be working together under the umbrella of the national park management based on their regular mandates. Some of the agencies identified to compose of the "Authority" in the proposed bills can be included in and oversight committee created for the purpose.

## **C. DENR Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted Special Projects (OASECPPFASP)**

This office interposes no objection and supports the intents and purposes of the said bills. However, may we cite our comments/recommendations in support of the objective of the said bills:

- I. House Bill No. 1214 by Rep. Faustino A. Dy V
  - a. We support the creation of the Sierra Madre Conservation and Development Authority which will lead the formulation and implementation of long-term plan/s. As such we would like to recommend that all actions/documents shall be anchored to the existing laws and policies of the DENR when it talks about Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). Hence, we agree that the authority will be the uniting and coordinating office for various LGUs and government agencies.
  - b. On section 3, like any other development authority created under the law, we agree that this unit shall be under the purview of the Office of the President.
  - c. On section 4 (j) we recommend inserting the word "and protection" after the phrase development and maintenance and it shall be read as follows:

“(j) Undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration, development and maintenance, and protection of Sierra Madre Region,..”
  - d. On section 16 (a), it is suggested inserting the word "issue" after the word prescribe and inserting the word "resolution" before stating the rules and regulations. It shall be read as:

“(a) To formulate, prescribe, issue, amend, and repeal resolutions, rules and regulations that govern the conduct of business of the authority;”
- II. House Bill No. 1972 by Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles
  - a. We support the creation of the Sierra Madre and Development Authority which will lead the formulation and implementation of long-term plan/s. As such we would like to recommend that all actions/documents shall be anchored to the existing laws and policies of the DENR when it talks about Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).
  - b. On section 2, like any other development authority created under the law, we recommend adding "under the Office of the President of the Philippines" in the last part of the paragraph and it shall be read as follows:

“Section 2. Creation of the Sierra Madre Development Authority. For the purpose of carrying out... hereinafter referred to as the Authority, which shall be organized within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act under the Office of the President of the Philippines”.
  - c. On section 4 (j) we recommend inserting the word "and protection" after the phrase development and maintenance and it shall be read as follows:

“(j) Undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration,

development and maintenance, and protection of the region,..".


- d. On section 16 (a), it is suggested inserting the word "issue" after the word prescribe and inserting the word "resolution" before stating the rules and regulations. It shall be read as:  
“(a) To formulate, prescribe, issue, amend, and repeal resolutions, rules and regulations that govern the conduct of business of the authority;”
- e. On section 28, we recommend the following statement for the effectivity clause:  
“Section 28. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Lastly, we suggest that House Bills No. 1214 and 1972 be consolidated into a single bill with House Bill 1214 as the base bill as their intent and content are similar.

Should there be any additional comments, rest assured that the Committee will be provided once received by our Office.

For your information and consideration.

Respectfully,

  
**ROMIROSE B. PADIN**  
Director for Legislative Liaison Office



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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21 February 2023

**HON. EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

Chairperson  
Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization  
House of Representatives  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

THRU: **MR. MARLON T. VALENCIA**  
Committee Secretary

Dear **Rep. Olivarez**:

In reference to the electronic mail received by our office on 18 November 2022, requesting the Department's comments on the following bills:

1. House Bill No. 1214, entitled: "AN ACT ENHANCING THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE RANGE IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE SIERRA MADRE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR" by Rep. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V, and
2. House Bill No. 1972, entitled: "AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE REGION, CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" by Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles.

We are respectfully transmitting to your good office additional comments from the DENR Region IV-A as follows:

1. The DENR had - and continues to - invest greatly in the NIPAS Protected Areas (PA's) covered by the Southern Sierra Made Mountain Range Region, especially in the provinces of Rizal, Quezon, and Laguna. These PA's have become regular inclusions in the annual Work and Financial Plan prepared by the DENR Region IV-A Office.
2. Since they are administered pursuant to the NIPAS, it naturally came that they are persistently pursued to be established under the same through a Congressional Act or by means of legislation (e.g., from a Presidential Proclamation graduating to a Republic Act);
  - a. Three (3) additional PA's have been legislated by virtue of Republic Act No. 11038/Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018 in Rizal Province, i.e., Hinulugang Taktak Protected Landscape, Pamitinan Protected Landscape, and Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape; the rest remained as Initial Components (IC's); and
  - b. The IC's include the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve (KRFR), Masungi Rock/Karst Conservation Area, Presidential Proclamation No. 1636 (PP 1636), Umiray Watershed Forest Reserve (UWFR), and Infanta Watershed Forest Reserve (IWFR). Appropriate funds are also allocated in order to conduct a PA Suitability Assessment (PASA) to these IC's (e.g., with PASA targets in PP 1636, IWFR and UWFR this CY 2022).
3. In addition to PA's, there are other existing proclamations in the Region that are governed by other agencies/offices;




- a. PP 225 - DENR Integrated Social Forestry Project (ISFP) in Sta. Maria and Famy, Laguna;
  - b. PP 641 - reserving parcels of land for resettlement purposes in Pakil, Pangil and Siniloan, Laguna and Infanta, Quezon;
  - c. PP 196 - amended PP 582 (Famy-Infanta Forest Reserve in Laguna and Quezon); reserving certain lands for agricultural settlement of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR); and
  - d. UP Land Grant - under the University of the Philippines - Los Baños.
4. Authority over the PA is represented by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), which is, at the core, already all-inclusive, participatory, and multi-stakeholders. Under the NIPAS laws, their powers and functions are well-defined. Additionally, in the organizational structure of a PA, we also have a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) headed by PA Superintendent (PASu) which provides the necessary and day-to-day supervision at the ground level;
  5. In the context of the NIPAS, the PAMBs are already in place and serves as the governing body. There needs to be cogent, complete, credible, and irrefutable bases (through research/study) that would present how the PAMB's are ineffective in their role at present. The proposed SMCDA can work in harmony with the PAMBs in the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive and long-term plan to conserve and protect the resources within Sierra Madre Region within the framework of sustainable development.
  6. Still referring to Section 3. Purpose and Functions of the Authority, it gives a stark impression that the future interventions in the Sierra Made Region are inclined more towards socio-economic development (e.g., infrastructure, commerce, industry, agriculture, energy, and other economic activities); the management, conservation and protection of the natural resources are not actually on the forefront. It would appear further that the natural resources are only given focus when it comes to the planned comprehensive survey. (Item a) and in undertaking studies (Item j).

In pursuit for conservation and protection, the Region continues to comply and implement pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 in these Southern Sierra Made Mountain Range Region Protected Areas.

Should there be any additional comments, rest assured that the Committee will be provided once received by our Office.

For your information and consideration.

Respectfully,

  
**ROMIRQUE B. PADIN**  
Director for Legislative Liaison Office



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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04 January 2023

**HON. EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

Chairperson  
Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization  
House of Representatives  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

THRU: **MR. MARLON T. VALENCIA**  
Committee Secretary

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We are respectfully transmitting to your good office additional comments from the DENR Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted Special Projects, as follows:

This office interposes no objection and supports the intents and purposes of the proposed legislative measures. However, may we cite our comments/recommendations in support of the objective of the said bills:

- I. House Bill No. 1214 by Rep. Faustino A. Dy V
  - a. We support the creation of the Sierra Madre Conservation and Development Authority which will lead the formulation and implementation of long-term plan/s. As such we would like to recommend that all actions/documents shall be anchored to the existing laws and policies of the DENR when it talks about Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).
  - b. On Section 3, we hereby recommend that the Sierra Madre Conservation and Development Authority be established as an attached agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This is in consideration of the streamlining of Offices under the Office of the President.

In reference to the Executive Order No. 149, series of 1993, section 2 (a), that the transfer and attachment of agencies/ government owned and/or controlled corporations to appropriate department or agencies for POLICY AND PROGRAM COORDINATION

AND INTEGRATION and/or administrative supervision. Thus we recommend the following statement for section 3.

**"Section 3. Creation of the Sierra Madre Development Authority.** For the purpose of carrying out xxx hereinafter referred to as the Authority, which shall be organized *as an attached Agency to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)* within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act."

c. On section 4, we recommend the following statement:

- On item a, we suggest adding the phrase "and shall be based on the approved Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) on the last sentence.

"(a) To establish the boundary xxx: Provided, further, that the management of protected areas defined under existing laws within the Sierra Madre Region shall be subject to monitoring and supervision of the Authority *and shall be based on the approved Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP)*;

- On item j, we recommend inserting the word "and protection" after the phrase development and maintenance and it shall be read as follows:

"(j) Undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration, development and maintenance, *and protection* of Sierra Madre Region xxx"

d. On section 16 (a), it is suggested inserting the word "issue" after the word prescribe and inserting the word "resolution" before stating the rules and regulations. It shall be read as:

"(a) To formulate, prescribe, *issue*, amend, and repeal *resolutions*, rules and regulations that govern the conduct of business of the authority;

II. House Bill No. 1972 by Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles

a. We support the creation of the Sierra Madre and Development Authority which will lead the formulation and implementation of long term plan/s.

As such we would recommend that all actions/documents shall be anchored to the existing laws and policies of the DENR when it talks about Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

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e. On section 28, we recommend the following statement for the effectivity clause:


"Section 28. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Lastly, we suggest that House Bills No. 1214 and 1972 be consolidated into a single bill with House Bill No. 1214 as the base bill as their intent and content are similar.

Should there be any additional comments, rest assured that the Committee will be provided once received by our Office.

For your information and consideration.

Respectfully,

  
**ROMIROSE B. PADIN**  
Director for Legislative Liaison Office