



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Bureau Directors**
Environmental Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **DIRECTIVES DURING THE 4TH TWG MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE ON NATIONAL LAND
USE ACT**

DATE : **March 23, 2023**

In reference to the Technical Working Group Meeting for the Special Committee on Land Use conducted at the House of Representatives on 23 March 2023, the Committee is requesting comments and recommended phraseology on certain provisions of House Bill No. 7652 as follows:

- 1. SEC 34. Reversion of Alienable and Disposable Lands to Forestlands. -** Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the DENR, duly reviewed and endorsed by the NLUC, and after due consultations with the concerned LGUS and affected parties, Congress may authorize the reversion of alienable and disposable lands of the public domain or portion thereof to forestlands. Thereafter, said lands shall be included in the preparation of land use plans within forestlands. *(For recommendation of phraseology of Land Management Bureau)*
- 2. SEC. 36. Formulation and Implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Plans. -** In the absence of a law on the protection and sustainable management of our forests, the LGUs through their local land use committees and upon mandatory consultations with the concerned sectors, and with the assistance of DENR, shall prepare their watershed management plans which shall be integrated with their respective CLUPS. The formulation and integration of the plan shall be guided, among others, by the principle that the management and development of inland water resources shall be at the watershed level. A nationwide mapping of watersheds in the country shall be implemented.

In cases where the watershed areas transcend the boundaries of a particular municipality, an inter-LGU committee composed of representatives from local land use committees of the LGUs where the watershed area is located shall be formed. With the assistance of the DENR and upon mandatory consultations with the concerned sectors, the inter-LGU committee shall formulate the watershed management plan for the said watershed area. The DENR and the concerned LGUs shall jointly implement the watershed management plan subject to regular consultations with and involvement of the community and other stakeholders in the implementation of the plan. The preparation of forest land use plans shall make use the watershed as the basic planning unit. *(For recommendation of phraseology of Forest Management Bureau)*

3. **SEC. 37. Establishment and Management of National Parks.** - All areas proclaimed by the President of the Philippines and Congress of the Philippines to be under the NIPAS, unless disestablished, including those identified as initial components of the NIPAS as (KBAS, shall comprise the national parks classification of the public domain. The DENR and concerned LGUS shall ensure that such areas are integrated in the CLUP and physical framework plans. The preparation of management plans of protected areas and national parks shall be in accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 7586 and other laws establishing or declaring specific areas as protected areas. *(For comments of Biodiversity Management Bureau)*

4. **Article 2 Coastal Zones SEC. 38. Criteria on the Allocation and Utilization of Lands within the Coastal Zones, SEC. 39. Coastal Land Zone Sub-classification, and SEC.40. Zoning of Foreshore Areas** *(For comments of Biodiversity Management Bureau, Forest Management Bureau, and Land Management Bureau)*

5. **SEC. 43. Settlements within Geo-hazard Areas** - Settlements, in particular housing or residential developments, within geo-hazard areas may be allowed provided that mitigating or protective measures are adopted to address the potential danger or risk to lives and property within such settlements. In coordination with the concerned agencies of the government, the NLUC shall provide assistance to concerned LGUs and settlers in instituting safety and corrective measures to address the potential danger or risk. Residential zones as designated in the CLUP shall be considered as outside the geo-hazard areas. For this purpose, housing projects within such areas shall be exempt from the ECC as well as the EGGAR and maybe implemented without the need for any further certificate of exemption from the DENR or any other government regulatory agency. *(For recommendation of phraseology of Environmental Management Bureau)*

6. **Article 4 NIPAS Areas SEC. 50. Integrated Management Strategy.** - For more effective planning levels, the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) referred to in R.A. No. 7586 must be incorporated in the Provincial Physical Framework Plan and CLUPS, if applicable, wherein the protected area zoning must be reflected. *(For comments of Biodiversity Management Bureau)*

In this regard, may we request **comments/recommendations/ rewordings on certain provisions of House Bill No. 7652.**

Kindly send them on or before **March 24, 2023, at 5 PM** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph.

For information and action, please.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN