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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** **The Directors**  
Policy and Planning Service  
Legal Affairs Service  
Indigenous Peoples' Concerns – Mindanao and BARMM Affairs  
Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service

**The Staff & Line Bureau Directors**  
Forest Management Bureau  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Land Management Bureau  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

**The Executive Director**  
River Basin Control Office

**The Regional Executive Directors**  
Regions IX, X, XI, XII, and XIII

**The Regional Directors**  
EMB IX, X, XI, XII, and XIII  
MGB IX, X, XI, XII, and XIII

**FROM :** **The Undersecretary**  
Field Operations – Mindanao

**SUBJECT :** **INSTRUCTIONS AND AGREEMENTS DURING THE  
MIDYEAR MINDANAO FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT  
CONFERENCE LAST 23-25 AUGUST 2023 AT KORONADAL  
CITY IN REGION-XII**

**DATE :** 25 SEP 2023

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This has reference to the issues and concerns during the Midyear Mindanao Field Operations Management Conference last 23-25 August 2023 at The Farm @ Carpenter Hill, Koronadal City in Region-XII. Anent hereto, we are providing your offices a matrix of the instructions and agreements made during the management conference.

Anent the above, the concerned offices are advised to submit updates/actions taken by their respective offices relative to the said instructions and agreements following the attached template. Submit them through this office's official email address: [usec.fom@denr.gov.ph](mailto:usec.fom@denr.gov.ph) **on or before 13 October 2023.**

Mindanao regions are further required to furnish their respective Assistant Secretaries for Field Operations – Mindanao of the aforementioned updates.

**For information, reference, and compliance.**



**JOSELIN MARCUS E. FRAGADA, CESO III**

**Copy furnished:**

- Office of the Secretary
- Office of the Chief of Staff and Supervising USEC for Strategic Communications
- The Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Eastern Mindanao
- The Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Western Mindanao

**TEMPLATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF UPDATES ON THE INSTRUCTIONS AND AGREEMENTS DURING THE MIDYEAR MINDANAO FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

Topics / Issues / Concerns	Instructions / Agreements	Concerned Office/s	Action/s Taken	Remarks/ Recommendations, if any

- Please note that the columns "Topics/Issues/Concerns", "Instructions/Agreements" and "Concerned Office/s" must be based on the attached matrix from OUFOM.

**INSTRUCTIONS AND AGREEMENTS DURING THE MIDYEAR MINDANAO MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

23-25 August 2023

The Farm Koronadal, South Cotabato, Region-XII

**A. Instructions and Agreements on Central Office, Bureaus, and Attached Agencies Discussions**

TOPICS/ISSUES/CONCERNS	INSTRUCTIONS/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE/S
<b>River Basin Control Office</b>		
Formalization of the creation of the RBMC/RBO to define its functions and make regular management units with regular staff with mandates capable of managing its own budget within the river basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asec Ruth M. Tawantawan requested for RBCO to <u>list down the support that the RBCO needs from the Field Offices.</u></li> </ul>	RBCO
<b>Forest Management Bureau</b>		
Community Resource Management Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asec Arleigh Adorable stated that there is a <u>need to fast track the preparation of CRMF of all of our CBFM areas</u> in the country because the CRMF will be the instrument to be presented to our investors.</li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions, FMB
<b>Biodiversity Management Bureau</b>		
Harmonization of all plans with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asec Arleigh stated that it is important to harmonize all the plans with the CLUP because once the CLUP is approved, it becomes the bible of spatial development in any particular government unit.</li> <li>The only way to possibly harmonize and integrate all development plans with the CLUP is for <u>the Regions to make proper representations in the Regional Development Council.</u></li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions

<b>Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs</b>		
Escalation Protocol for Critical and Emerging Issues in Mindanao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asec Go requests for the <u>inputs of the Regional Offices</u> before the escalation protocol diagram is submitted to the Office of the Secretary.</li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions
<b>Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE-BARMM)</b>		
Collaboration between the DENR and MENRE- BARMM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DENR <u>needs information from BARMM</u> so that DENR can help map out areas within BARMM</li> </ul>	OIPCMBARMMA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>BARMM must be included in the International Conferences and in every Mindanao Conference</u> for them to be aware of the present activities of the Forestry Sector and the environment.</li> </ul>	OIPCMBARMMA
<b>Office of the Director for Indigenous Peoples Concerns – Mindanao and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Affairs</b>		
Collaboration between the DENR and MENRE- BARMM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretary stated that we should not only know what programs need to be implemented but <u>should also know each program’s goals and purpose in order to reach the development goals and aspirations within the BARMM</u></li> </ul>	OIPCMBARMMA
<b>Project TRANSFORM</b>		
Submission of identified sites for PROJECT Transform including the Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other regions will be given until the end of the 3rd quarter, 2023 to submit their identified sites for Project TRANSFORM and its framework</li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions except Region 10

**B. INSTRUCTIONS AND AGREEMENTS DURING MINDANAO REGIONAL OFFICES' DISCUSSIONS**

TOPICS/ISSUES/CONCERNS	INSTRUCTIONS/AGREEMENTS	CONCERNED OFFICE/S
<b>Region 9 – Zamboanga Peninsula</b>		
<p><i>Pestalotiopsis sp.</i> (Leaf Fall Disease of Rubber): Emerging grave threat disease outbreak on the rubber plantations in the region.</p>	<p>ERDB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In cases where regions have detected pests and diseases in plantations, the <u>ERDB should be informed the earliest possible so that ERDB can mobilize their team.</u></li> <li>Each of the <u>CENRO should have its own pests and surveillance team</u> that the ERDB could capacitate on a yearly basis on the emergence of pests and diseases.</li> </ul> <p>Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Lozaga:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For ERDB, we <u>need protocols for reporting, detection, and surveillance, especially regarding biodiversity.</u></li> <li>We need to <u>establish the history of the instances of pests and diseases and be on the lookout for new or emerging problems.</u> FMB, BMB, and ERDB should work together.</li> <li>The <u>assistance to the outbreak of disease on the rubber plantations should be fast-tracked.</u></li> </ul>	<p>All Mindanao Regions, ERDB</p> <p>FMB, BMB, ERDB and Region 9</p>
<p>Very Low Budget Utilization Rate in Site Preparation and Planting (1%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Review the Budget Utilization Rate with your Finance Division</u></li> </ul>	<p>Region 9</p>
<p>Low Obligated amount in the activity Assessment/Inventory of NGP Graduated Sites (2%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Review the BUR</u> because there is no guideline yet for this activity. Thus, budget for this cannot be utilized.</li> </ul>	<p>Region 9</p>
<p>Activities that are below 50% in accomplishment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Submit a Catch-up Plan to the concerned offices/bureaus</u> for those activities that are below 50% in accomplishments</li> </ul>	<p>All Mindanao Regions</p>
<b>Region 10 – Northern Mindanao</b>		
<p>Renewal of IFMA No. R10-95-001 Awarded To E. Pelaez Ranch, Inc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No FPIC was issued by NCIP so the IFMA is still not renewed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USEC Joselin Marcus E. Fragada requested for the <u>map of the area to be forwarded to the Office of the Field Operations – Mindanao.</u></li> </ul>	<p>Region 10, FMB</p>

<p>Renewal Of PA-FLGMA No. R10-001-101323 Of E. Pelaez Ranch, Inc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proponent was able to get the endorsement from the tribe but the endorsement still has no bearing for no FPIC was issued by the NCIP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USEC Joselin Marcus E. Fragada stated that the request for the intervention of the Secretary to finally allow the approval of the application for renewal of FLGMA cannot be granted but the office can make a presentation to the DOJ regarding the issue. The Region can <u>come up with a fact sheet and endorse a legal query to the Office of the Field Operations – Mindanao</u> and the USEC can endorse it to the Secretary before it can be endorsed to the DOJ.</li> <li>Moreover, the request to extend/renew the Provisional Agreement previously issued meantime that FPIC from the NCIP is not yet given and <u>still needs to be discussed further by the Region, UFOM, ASFOWM and the Legal Affairs Service.</u></li> </ul>	<p>Region 10, OASFOWM, LAS</p>
<p>Presence of Structures within the LIANGAN-LIPATAN RIVER MANGROVE FOREST RESERVE designated as Protected Area under PP no. 2152 series of 1981:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction and operationalization of structures within the PA without the necessary environmental permits, PAMB resolution, and other requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisherman’s Wharf;</li> <li>Boardwalk and Amusement Park; and</li> <li>International Organic Convention Center.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For all the Regional Offices, the <u>processing of CNC applications online should be postponed in the meantime until the issue on the issuance of a CNC within a mangrove forest reserve will be resolved.</u></li> </ul>	<p>All Mindanao Regions</p>
<p>Inventory of seedling replacement to FMB including the location of the areas and shapefiles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Submit inventory of seedling replacement to FMB including the location of the areas and shapefiles.</u></li> </ul>	<p>All Mindanao Regions, FMB</p>
<p>Inventory of equipment/ conveyances/ implements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Submit inventory of their equipment/conveyances/implements to FMB so they may coordinate with ELEPS for proper disposal. Attach all the forfeiture orders of the vehicles and equipment that have been confiscated/forfeited.</u></li> </ul>	<p>All Mindanao Regions, FMB, ELEPS</p>

Region 11 – Davao Region		
Unutilized 774M under the EMB-XI / Waste-To-Energy (WTE) Project with City Government of Davao	<p>Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principal issue would be, <u>who would be audited by the COA. Whoever would be audited by the COA needs to be the owner and the manager/implementer of the project.</u></li> <li>• <u>Who is going to be accountable for the allotment needs to be in charge of the project? If it is the DENR, does the DENR have the technical capacity to run the project? Are there technical personnel to actually implement the project?</u></li> <li>• <u>Whoever is accountable should have the control over the project.</u> You cannot be accountable for something that you cannot control.</li> <li>• DENR would like to support the project, however, the <u>structure and accountability need to be suitable for everybody that is concerned and going to be involved.</u></li> </ul>	Region 11
Assessment/Inventory of NGP Graduated Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines on the assessment of NGP plantations was already signed by Sec. Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga. An orientation for all regional focal persons will be conducted. Regions should <u>start identifying the personnel who will be participating in the assessment.</u></li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions
No allotment for Revenue Collection under Improved Land Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>To include in 2024 Work and Financial Plan</u></li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions
No memorandum/guidelines on the disposition of confiscated vehicles and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>FMB will prepare a template</u> where they can get all the needed information before they can come up with guidelines.</li> </ul>	FMB
Below 100 % to date accomplishment for the issuance of Mineral Ore Export Permits (MOEPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MGB 11 assured that the office will be able to catch up with the target since there are two Mineral Processing Permits (MPPs) to operate this year, and this would result in an increase in Ore Transport Permit (OTP) and MOEP applications. <u>MGB-11 to submit a catch-up plan.</u></li> </ul>	Region 11



<b>Region 12 - SOCCSKSARGEN</b>		
<p>The Provincial Government of Sultan Kudarat raised several times in the courts that they want the resolution for the cancellation of the IFMA 18-2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a pending administrative case with DENR for the cancellation of the IFMA which is grounded on the absence of FPIC and the extension of the tenure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USEC Joselin Marcus E. Fragada commented on the issue of the taxes <u>that it is the proponent's obligation to pay to the provincial government of Sultan Kudarat</u>. Further, <u>it is part of the contract that once the IFMA is issued, they should pay their taxes to the provincial LGU</u>.</li> </ul>	Region 12
Ongoing activities in Plantation Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asec Adorable is recommending each region <u>to double time in establishing the plantations because according to the forecast, El Niño is expected to happen</u>. All plantations should be established already by the end of October</li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions
<b>Region 13 – CARAGA</b>		
Request of Congressman Ecleo for the reclassification of 3,300 ha in the province of Dinagat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UFOM has asked for the <u>Office of Cong. Ecleo to prepare a presentation regarding the province of Dinagat on the example of the proclamation they are requesting and the Land Use Plan of the province so that a meeting could be scheduled with the Secretary</u>.</li> </ul>	Region 13
	<p>Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have EnPs in the DENR, and issues in land use and development, such as reclassification and the delineation of forestlands, can be addressed by our EnPs in the DENR. What have our EnPs done in relation to these issues?</li> <li>• <u>Each Region should identify the EnPs, Urban Planners, and Regional Planners</u> in their region and the gap should be filled for those regions without such planners.</li> </ul>	All Mindanao Regions

<p>Requests of Hon. Romeo S. Momo, Sr. and Hon. Johnny T. Pimentel (Congressmen of Surigao del Sur)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for additional area development for ENGP for FY 2024 which requires over 60M pesos of additional budget</li> <li>• Request for employment of Bantay Gubat/Forest Protection Officers</li> </ul>	<p>Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FMB has licensed drone pilots. We can orient the congressmen that there are technologies that we can utilize for forest protection without utilizing a lot of manpower.</li> </ul> <p>USEC Joselin Marcus E. Fragada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For all the REDs, most of the requests from congressmen are funding for forest protection, maybe as soon as now <u>the congressmen can be slowly transitioned into understanding that we are trying to move into better technology.</u></li> </ul>	<p>All Mindanao Regions</p>
<p>Areas which had undergone Surveying, Mapping and Planning (SMP) were not entirely planted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every region <u>should identify how many hectares of SMPed area were not planted so that we can examine whether to continue or not to conduct SMP in the future.</u></li> </ul>	<p>All Mindanao Regions</p>
<p>Twelve (12) Protected Areas with Initial Components</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Endeavor to have these areas legislated to be protected.</u> As mentioned by the Secretary, Mindanao is endowed with natural resources. Thus, we have great responsibility to protect it.</li> </ul>	<p>Region 13</p>