## Republic of the Philippines



## Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 8920-0689 / 8925-8275 / 0917-885-3367 / 0917-868-3367
Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

## **MEMORANDUM**

FOR/TO

Director, Legal Affairs Service (Vice- Chairperson, PTWG)

Assistant Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau

Assistant Director, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

Assistant Director, Environmental Management Bureau

Assistant Director, Forest Management Bureau Assistant Director, Land Management Bureau Assistant Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau

Representative, Office of the Head Executive Assistant

Representative, Office of the Chief of Staff and Supervising

**Undersecretary for Strategic Communications** 

Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Administration

Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change

Representative, Office of the Undersecretary Policy, Planning and International Affairs

Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations (FO) - Luzon, Visayas and Environment

Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for FO - Mindanao Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation and Human Resources

Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs

Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science

Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns

Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs

Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for FO - Luzon and Visayas

Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for FO - Eastern Mindanao

Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for FO - Western Mindanao

Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives

Representative, Legal Affairs Services

Representative, Climate Change Service

Representative, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

Representative, Internal Audit Service

Representative, Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

Representative, Financial and Management Service

Representative, Administrative Service

Representative, Knowledge and Information Systems Service

Chief, Records Management Division

OIC, Geospatial Information Services Division, NAMRIA

FROM : The OIC Director, Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF POLICY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (PTWG)

MEETING NO. 2023-08 HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023, 9:30 AM AT THE 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, DENR-CENTRAL

OFFICE BUILDING

DATE : 0.4 OCT 2023

This refers to the conduct of Policy Technical Working Group (PTWG) Meeting No. 2023-08 on 28 September 2023, 9:30 AM at the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, with the following agenda:

- 1. Draft DAO re Revised Rates of Fees for Certain Administrative Services Rendered; and
- 2. Draft DAO re Revised Rates of Fees and Charges for the Products and Services Rendered by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)

Herewith are the highlights of the discussions:

- The Director of the Legal Affairs Service (LAS), Atty. Norlito A. Eneran inquired on whether there is an initiative to come up with a single issuance/policy on fees and charges for the whole Department. He suggested reconsidering the issuance of policies per sector since the set-up at the Regional and Field Offices is already functional. The members of the body agreed with the proposal to have a unified DENR policy on fees and charges.
- On the query of the undersigned whether to proceed with the discussion of the proposed policies given the agreement, the PTWG members suggested discussing the proposed policies and to await the submission of the draft policies of the other sectors.
- For. Llarina S. Mojica of the Policy Studies Division (PSD) recalled the agreement during the meeting on fees and charges last 27 April 2023 that all the offices concerned should submit their updated draft policy to the PPS by 30 June 2023. She proposed the conduct of a workshop to discuss the drafting of a unified/single DENR policy on fees and charges.

- On the draft DAO re Revised Rates of Fees for Certain Administrative Services Rendered, For, Adeluisa G. Siapno of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs remarked that the Php1,000.00 appeal fee may be costly on the part of appellants, who are mostly indigents. Ms. Jocelyn B. De Lavola. Chief of the Records Management Division (RMD) informed that the appeal fee is consistent with the costing of the Office of the President (OP) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). Additionally, the costing was subjected to voting during the consultation with the different offices of the Department. For. Siapno remarked that there should be a unified costing for similar services across all sectors/offices of the Department, Director Eneran clarified that the appeal fee is paid in the Legal Division of the Regional Office and not in the LAS. He suggested removing the appeal fee from the draft DAO since the LAS has crafted a specific policy on Rules of Appeal. In addition, he suggested the deletion of related provisions in Section 2. Scope and Coverage (filing of petition or appeal), Section 4. Definition of Terms (Appeal), and in Section 5. Fees and Charges (Legal Affairs Service; appeal or petitions filed against Decisions or Orders).
- For. Siapno proposed the inclusion in the draft policy of the fees for other services under the Administrative Service. In response, Ms. De Layola stated that the matter will be consulted with the other Divisions of the Administrative Service. Director Eneran suggested the inclusion of the e-payment system in the proposed policy.
- On the draft DAO re Revised Rates of Fees for Products and Services Rendered by NAMRIA. For, Siapno suggested including in the Definition of Terms the term "Geomatics Training." She also inquired on the notable decrease of fees for certain services and on its implication in the provision of services. On the slope survey, she proposed that the charges for the conduct of the survey and the production of slope map be split. Director Eneran opined that the charges for slope survey should not be included in the draft policy since this is already provided in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed by NAMRIA with other entities. He also stressed that the charging of fee for the activity should have a legal cover/basis. Further, he remarked that NAMRIA's conduct of slope survey may be a duplication of the function of the CENRO. Mr. Marlo M. Baetiong of NAMRIA informed that the slope survey is only confined to Tagaytay City involving lands for issuance of patents under CARP, and that there exists a legal opinion from the Office of the President regarding the matter. He considered the removal of the slope survey from the draft policy, but maintained that the fee for the slope map should be retained since this is one of the products of NAMRIA.
- Director Eneran suggested coming up with a system of conducting the stakeholders consultation. Relatedly, For. Siapno proposed that the consultations should be at different levels, i.e., regional, national.

• The undersigned proposed that the Revision of Fees Committee should reconvene to facilitate the crafting of the unified policy on fees and charges. Since the membership of the Committee is lean, it was proposed that representatives from LAS, Administrative Service, KISS, Bureaus, Field Operations Offices and Attached Agencies be invited. Moreover, the Committee should facilitate the inventory of fees and services, consider the inclusion of the e-payment system and identify the offices including the regions that have adopted such a system, discuss the timeline for the development of the policy and the activities to be conducted.

Below are the agreements and ways forward:

- A unified/single policy on the updated rates of fees and charges for all the products and services rendered by the DENR and its Attached Agencies shall be issued.
- The RMD and NAMRIA shall consider the inputs/recommendations of the body regarding their fees and charges.
- The FMS to reconvene the Revision of Fees Committee created under Special Order No. 2013-435 dated 23 July 2013 to facilitate the crafting of the unified policy on fees and charges. The Committee should invite representatives from LAS, Administrative Service, KISS, Bureaus, Field Operations Offices and Attached Agencies be invited. Moreover, the Committee should facilitate the inventory of fees and services, consider the inclusion of the e-payment system and identify the offices including the regions that have adopted such a system, discuss the timeline for the development of the policy and the activities to be conducted, including the conduct of workshop to be attended by all relevant bureaus and offices.
- For the Revision of Fees Committee to consider the manner and levels of the conduct of stakeholders consultation, i.e., regional, national level consultation.

For your information and reference, please.

CHERY LOISE T. LEAL