



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN**



MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : The Undersecretary for Field Operations –
Luzon, Visayas and Environment

The Undersecretary for
Organizational Transformation and Human Resources

The Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : The Undersecretary
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

**SUBJECT: DIRECTIVES OF THE SECRETARY DURING EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 2024-08 HELD ON 04 MARCH 2024
REGARDING THE UPDATES ON THE FOREST FIRES IN
BENGUET**

DATE : MAR 12 2024

In the discussion of the agenda regarding the updates on Forest Fires in Benguet during Executive Committee Meeting No. 2024-08 held on 04 March 2024, the Secretary instructed the following:

1. Prescribe the use of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the collaboration with private mining companies as a template for similar partnerships;
2. Communicate with other mining companies in Benguet regarding the need for the levelling up of their monitoring and compliance with environmental observations and propose the establishment of their own weather stations and other instruments. Also, ensure the capacitation of DENR personnel on the data analysis generated from these instruments;
3. For the BMB, MGB, and EMB to join the FMB in the USAID (US Forest Service) training on forest fire suppression to be held on March 19-22, 2024;
4. For the FMB to revisit its budget for Forest Protection and Management and ensure the allocation of funds for personal protective

MEMO NO.-2024-247

equipment (PPE) and other forest fire preparedness and response requirements for the high-value forest areas;

5. For the FMB to expand its current collaboration with the US Forest Service to determine the capability gaps and needs of the DENR field offices in responding to forest fire incidents;
6. For the FMB to develop a plan or define the approaches for forest protection and management in relation to forest fire incidents;
7. Develop the protocol on forest fire response in collaboration with other non-government entities;
8. Consider the development of a plan for actions to be taken after a forest fire incident within an area; and
9. Revisit the structure of the Fire Suppression Task Force (TF). The TF should be chaired by the Bureau of Fire Prevention (BFP) and not the DENR regardless of whether the fire incident is within a forestland area.

Please submit a report of compliance to the above-cited directives to this Office on or before 15 March 2024.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES