



DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES

SPECIAL ORDER

NO. 25

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**SUBJECT: CREATION OF SPECIAL TASK FORCES PROVINCIAL AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, DELINEATION AND RECOGNITION OF ANCESTRAL LAND AND DOMAIN CLAIMS NATIONWIDE**

In the interest of the service and consistent with the Constitutional mandate for the recognition and protection of the rights of the indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands and domains to ensure their economic, social and cultural well-being, a Provincial Special Task Force on Ancestral Domains and a Community Special Task Force on Ancestral Lands are hereby created in every Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), respectively, where there is known to exist a concentration of said communities.

Initially, such Provincial and Community Special Task Forces shall be organized in each of the following provinces: Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao, Mt. Province, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Aurora, Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Quezon, Rizal, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Lanao del Norte. Special Task Forces may likewise be organized in other provinces and areas which may later be established as having an indigenous cultural community population of at least five thousand.

Each Provincial Task Force on Ancestral Domains shall effect the identification, delineation and recognition of ancestral domain claims of indigenous cultural communities in its area of jurisdiction as well as the formulation and execution of strategies and plans for the sustainable development of the natural resources in these territories. Accordingly, it shall determine, undertake and/or coordinate all activities necessary for the proper discharge of this function; provided, that the actual survey of ancestral domain claims shall be planned and executed by the Office of the Regional Executive Director concerned.

Likewise, each Community Special Task Force shall, on the basis of applications filed by individual or indigenous corporate (families or clans) claimants, cause the identification, delineation and recognition of ancestral land claims in its area of responsibility. For this purpose, it shall undertake and/or coordinate all activities necessary for the proper discharge

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