



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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DENR Special Order

No. 98-169
Series of 1998

Subject: Creating the DENR Study Team to Address the Issue of Displacement Caused by Environment and Natural Resources Related Development Activities that are within DENR Jurisdiction

In order to expedite and carry out effectively the commitments and agreements that emerged from the series of meetings among representatives of the DENR, the GRP-OPAPP, the Local Peace Convenors, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Social Reform Council (SRC) under the Office of the President, the Agriculture (DA), Energy, Tourism, Public Works and Highways, and Trade and Industry Departments, and selected NGOs particularly the CBCP-ECIP, a DENR Study Team is hereby created with the following objectives and tasks:

Objectives:

- a) To identify "do-able" appropriate government responses to concrete displacement issues in identified case areas.
- b) To investigate the phenomenon of displacement, particularly as it relates to environment and natural resources related development activities,
- c) To identify and, if appropriate, adopt a process/operational framework or institutional mechanism by which DENR can respond to specific issues of displacement;
- d) To submit to the Social Reform Council (SRC) and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) proposed policy response and institutional mechanism by which other concerned government agencies can respond to the problem of displacement resulting from the implementation of developmental projects.

The DENR Study Team shall;

- a) Coordinate with the Social Reform Council and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) in coming up with a process to respond to the issue,
- b) Coordinate with other DENR offices and other concerned government agencies in the formulation of proposed insitutional reponse mechanism/s to respond to specific cases,
- c) Consolidate the findings of the field investigation and submit to the National Study team a proposal for a process or mechanism for the resolution of environment and natural resources related cases of displacement; and
- e) To draw up the Terms of Reference and Protocols that will govern the field investigation by the Department of the initial case-areas that were indicated in the July 25, 1997 Memorandum from the President.

The DENR Study Team shall be composed as follows:

- 1) Undersecretary Antonio G. M. La Viña
- 2) Representative of the Undersecretary for Environment and Program Development (EPD)
- 3) Representative of the Undersecretary for Field Operations
- 4) Representative of the Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau
- 5) Representative from the EMB-EIA Division
- 6) Atty. Ingrid Gorre - Legal Service

- 7) Atty. Ma. Ronely Bisquera
- 8) Ms. Ma. Lourdes L. Baylon - Office of Undesecretary La Viña
- 9) Mr. Joey Austria
- 10) Romeo T. Acosta - Head, CBFMO

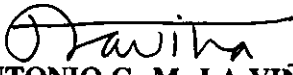
The **Overall Chair or Focal Point** for this initiative shall be the **DENR Undersecretary for Legal Affairs** who shall act upon specific instructions from the Secretary of the Department. The Chair shall assign a maximum of two lawyers to review each specific case that will be brought to the DENR by OPAPP and the Local Peace Partners. The said lawyers shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the regional offices, bureaus and peace partners concerned. The Overall Chair will be responsible for the outputs and final review and approval of all documents/reports prepared by the field team together with the Secretariat prior to their submission to the DENR Secretary and the National Study Team.

The **Office of the Ancestral Domain Management Program (ADMP)**, under the Community Based Forest Management Office (CBFMO) shall act as the Secretariat for the DENR Study Team. As such, it shall take care of the administrative/logistical requirements of the entire operation of the study team including meetings that will involve other government agencies. The Secretariat shall also be responsible for the preparation, reproduction and distribution of all documents that will be generated by the study team. For purposes of this project, the Secretariat will receive its instructions from the Overall Chair.

All expenses to be incurred by members of the Study Team relative to this Order shall be charged against the funds of respective offices subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Travel and transportation expenses including per diems of the lawyers who will conduct field visits shall be charged against the funds of the Community-Based Forest Management Office. Travel orders and vouchers relative to the field visits shall be signed by the Overall Chair or Focal Point for this initiative.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall terminate upon the completion of tasks and accomplishment of all objectives.

Recommended by:


ANTONIO G. M. LA VIÑA
*Undersecretary for Legal, Legislative
Affairs and Attached Agencies*


VICTOR O. RAMOS
Secretary