

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

No. 03

**SUBJECT: Adoption of the Revised DENR Mandate and Mission**

Consistent with the constitutional provisions and as provided for in Executive Order No. 192 dated 10 June 1987, the mandate, mission and key result areas including sectoral functions of the Department are hereby revised.

All concerned regional offices, staff bureaus and attached agencies under the Department are hereby enjoined to adopt the revised mandate and mission as herewith attached.

**This Memorandum Circular takes effect immediately.**

**FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.**  
**Secretary**

Signed February 17, 1989

**REVISED MANDATE, MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**I. Mandate**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the primary government agency responsible for the sustainable development\* of the country's natural resources and ecosystems.

**II. Mission**

To Promote the well-being of the Filipino people through:

- A. Sustainable development of forest resources;
- B. Optimal utilization of lands and minerals;
- C. Social equity and efficiency in resource use; and
- D. Effective environmental management.

**III. Key Result Areas (Objectives)**

- 1. Sustainable development of the ecologically critical uplands;
- 2. Protection of the remaining natural forests;
- 3. Rehabilitation of denuded and marginal areas;
- 4. Determination and management of optimal land uses;
- 5. Intensification of mineral exploration and development, including off-shore areas;
- 6. Expansion of the Integrated Social Forestry Program;
- 7. Establishment of community-based forestry;
- 8. Survey, allocation and disposition of alienable or disposable (A or D) lands for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP);
- 9. Rationalization of the disposition of public lands.
- 10. Delineation and management of people's mining areas;
- 11. Promotion of efficiency in natural resource-based industries;
- 12. Preservation of biological diversity;

\* Sustainable Development (SD) is a process of change to meet the needs of the people without lessening the potential for meeting their future needs, the needs of other societies, and those of future generations.

13. Improvement of air and water quality in urban areas; and
14. Generation of data and technologies for the proper understanding and management of natural ecosystems and their interactions.

#### IV. General Functions

- A. Formulate and implement the Department's policies, plans and programs for sustainable development.
- B. Support natural resources-based industries to promote countryside development.
- C. Provide raw materials to meet increasing demands at the same time keeping adequate reserves for environmental stability.
- D. Encourage and enhance participation of local communities/government units and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in environment and natural resources planning, development and management.
- E. Regulate the exploration, disposition and utilization of the country's environment and natural resources.
- F. Conduct inventory, survey and assessment of the country's environment and natural resources.
- G. Provide for a holistic approach to the control of environmental pollution through the implementation of reasonable and acceptable standards for environmental quality.
- H. Establish an Integrated Protected Areas (IPAs); and
- I. Create alternative energy sources of fuelwood.

#### V. Sectoral Functions

##### **FORESTRY SECTOR**

- A. Conduct reforestation and rehabilitation of poorly/inadequately stocked, open and denuded logged-over areas/forest lands and watersheds, including improvement of grazing lands;
- B. Implement Integrated Social Forestry and other community-based forest management activities;
- C. Encourage establishment of economic-sized forest-based processing plants;

- D. Encourage and assist private landowners in the establishment of private forest plantations to augment raw materials supply of wood-based industries and enhance environmental protection;
- E. Promote the development of labor intensive and employment generating reforestation, agroforestry, industrial tree plantations, tree-farms and similar enterprises.

#### **LANDS SECTOR**

- A. Survey, manage and dispose alienable or disposable (A or D) lands of the public domain and other lands not under government agencies.
- B. Reconstitute missing surveys and public land records and verify and approve surveys submitted by other agencies and practitioners;
- C. Establish land information systems needed for planning and general information;
- D. Formulate and implement a comprehensive land-use management plan.

#### **MINES SECTOR**

- A. Conduct geological surveys, mappings and exploration, including on and off-shore areas and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);
- B. Promote more safe and proper utilization of mineral resources;
- C. Conduct and support researches on mineral resources exploration;
- D. Promote expansion of mineral markets;
- E. Promote and regulate small-scale mining, particularly in gold-rush mining.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR**

- A. Recommend legislation, policies and programs for environment and natural resources planning and management including pollution control;
- B. Implement an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System for environmentally-critical projects.

## **RESEARCH SECTOR**

- A. Undertake researches on natural resources, environmental quality and ecosystems, and disseminate technology and information on the development, conservation, regulation and proper use of the country's natural resources; and
- B. Conduct pilot tests of appropriate technologies.

## **PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE SECTOR**

- A. Establish, manage and rehabilitate Integrated Protected Areas (IPA) and promote the conservation and preservation of genetic resources and biological diversities.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUPPORT**

- A. Undertake the electrification of the countryside through cooperatives in order to relieve the pressure on fuelwood utilization;
- B. Undertake classification and sub-classification of public domain and inventory of the country's natural resources using hydrographic, ground and remote sensing surveys and appropriate complementary technologies;
- C. Provide map-making services and act as the central mapping agency, depository and distribution facility for natural resources;
- D. Promote, develop and expand the natural resources-based industries thru production-sharing, co-production and joint ventures as provided for by the Constitution; and
- E. Establish and maintain a geodetic control network that would serve as a common reference for the accuracy of all surveys in the country.

## **VI. Operations Streamlining**

In accordance with the revised mandate, mission and functions of the Department, and in order to further streamline its operations, the following **STOP/PHASE-OUT/CONTINUE & STRENGTHEN** program is proposed:

- 1. **STOP.** – The Department will stop performing the following activities:

- a. Management and rehabilitation of watershed areas under the jurisdiction of public corporations by virtue of executive proclamations. However, these areas are still subject to DENR regulation and compliance with environmental and natural resources (ENR) rules and regulations.
  - b. Management of coastal and marine resources that are not components of the Integrated Protected Areas (IPA) Network System.
  - c. Management and protection of historical parks and barangay/forest parks. The responsibility over these parks should be turned over to the National Historical Commission and the local government/community, respectively, but subject to compliance with ENR rules and regulations.
  - d. Implementation of the Shares on Kabuhayan Program and the Agro-forestry State Projects.
  - e. Implementation of the Solid Waste Management Assistance and Development Programs. This program can be implemented by the Local Government Units (LGUs).
  - f. Management of wastewater in urban housing communities. This can likewise be implemented by the LGUs.
2. **PHASE-OUT.** – The Department proposes the gradual phasing out the conduct of government-administered reforestation projects with the increasing participation of the private sector, local communities and non-government organizations in the contract reforestation program of the DENR.
3. **CONTINUE & STRENGTHEN.** – The Department will further strengthen work on the following activities:
- a. Institution of policy and program reform in the ENR sector.
  - b. Strict compliance with ENR rules and regulations by both private and public sectors directly involved in resource utilization and management.
  - c. Development of a strong and mutually-beneficial partnership with the private sector.

Likewise, the Department will push through/start implementing the following activities which are within the DENR mandates. Some of these projects have been programmed in the past for implementation, but due to constraints (budgetary, institutional, etc.), have not been fully implemented.

- a. **Implementation of a viable and continuing population program for the uplands, with emphasis on Information and Education Campaign (IEC).**
- b. Establishment of community-based forestry.
- c. Implementation of an extension program for upland communities.
- d. Development and implementation of a land suitability program for the uplands.
- e. Establishment of a computerized land information system.
- f. Identification and delineation of ancestral lands.
- g. Establishment of a new regime of land management through the operation of the new Public Land Code.\*
- h. Establishment of a new regime in mineral resources management through the implementation of the People's Mining Act (Minahang Bayan)\* and Mineral Resources Act of 1988.\*\*
- i. Implementation of an off-shore mineral exploration program.
- j. Development and implementation of the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development.
- k. Establishment of an NSC environmental and forest protection monitoring network.
- l. Establishment of environmental quality laboratories.
- m. Establishment of an Integrated Protected Areas System (IPAS).

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\*Pending in Congress; \*\*For endorsement to Congress.