

Memorandum Order
No. 2
January 16, 1990

**SUBJECT: Moratorium on the Logging Operation in
the Province of Nueva Vizcaya**

Reports reaching this Office, notably those submitted by the Congressman and the Municipal Mayors of Nueva Vizcaya, including the PC Provincial Commander thereof, have disclosed the occurrence of unchecked illegal logging in Nueva Vizcaya. These nefarious activities should be curtailed in order to conserve and maintain the sustainable capacity of the remaining forests of the province, and safeguard the ecological balance.

In the face of this threat, upon the recommendation of the Congressman, the Governor, the Provincial Board, Mayors and the PC Provincial Commander, and pending the re-assessment evaluation and study of the existing forest resources situation of the province, logging activities in Nueva Vizcaya, including all movement of logs and lumber originating from the province are hereby **SUSPENDED** effective immediately, as of this date until further notice.

The Regional Executive Director, DENR Region 2, Tuguegarao, Cagayan is hereby instructed to seek the assistance of the PC Provincial Commander of Nueva Vizcaya and the Philippine Army Units assigned thereat for the effective implementation of this Order. The coordination with Local Government Units (LGU's) shall also be sought especially the Municipal Mayors concerned.

The Regional Technical Director for Forestry and the PENRO of Nueva Vizcaya shall prepare the mechanics of implementation of this Order within ten (10) days from date hereof, indicating among others the strategic location of monitoring stations, the organization and composition of Forest Products Monitoring Teams, the names of persons who will man the stations on a 24-hour (3-shift) basis, etc. In the meantime, the PENRO of Nueva Vizcaya shall take initial preparatory actions to implement this Order.

In implementing this Order, the following are hereby ordered:

1. All logging activities in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, if any, are hereby suspended/stopped until further notice;
2. All operations of legitimate sawmills and mini-sawmills are hereby suspended;

3. All sawmills, mini-sawmills and re-saws without permit should be closed/padlocked, and criminal charges be filed against the owners/operators;
4. There should be immediate scaling and inventory of all logs and lumber within the Province whether in the processing plants, logponds or inside the forest. Results of scaling and inventory are to be submitted to this Office immediately.
5. The movement of minor forest products shall not be covered by the transport ban, i.e. pulpwood, firewood, bark, tree top, resin, gumwood, oil, honey, beeswax, nipa, rattan and other forest products such as grass, shrubs and other forest plants.
6. That the transport ban shall not cover/affect logs, lumber and other forest products whose origin is not from Nueva Vizcaya and are just passing through the National Highway of Nueva Vizcaya.

The implementation of this Order shall be closely coordinated with the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) directly working or supporting the operation.

Any TLA holder, permittee and wood processor found handling or in possession of illegally sourced forest products shall be closed, their license/permit cancelled. Conveyances used in the shipment of illegal forest products shall be confiscated in favor of the government, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate criminal charges if evidence warrants.

The RTD for Forestry Region 2, is hereby designated as the Special Coordinator in the implementation of this Order. He shall be responsible to his Regional Executive Director, who shall in turn report to the Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations, Luzon, every two (2) weeks on the progress (status) of the implementation of this Order.

This Order takes effect immediately and supersedes any order inconsistent herewith.

FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.
Secretary