

**DENR Administrative Order
No. 96-39
December 16, 1996**

SUBJECT : Amending DAO No. 17, Series of 1995 Dated 20 May 1995 on the Institutionalization of the Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Committees (MFPC) Within the DENR System

In the interest of the service and pursuant to Presidential Memorandum dated 13 July 1994 and DAO No.17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 mandating institutionalization of the MFPC in the DENR system, to ensure proper and enhance attainment of said mandate; to provide more impetus to the MFPC institutionalization program; to strengthen the Technical Working Group (NTWG) to be more responsive to the technical support and secretariat needs of the MFPC program at all levels and enable the TWGs to function and perform their mandates aggressively in consonance with the demands of the MFPCs nationwide and to enable intimate involvement of top DENR management in the MFPC institutionalization efforts, the following amendments to DAO 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 are hereby decreed and instituted.

SEC. 1 CREATION OF MFPCs IN REGIONS, PROVINCES, MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES AND BARANGAYS

Section 4, DAO No. 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 shall now read as follows:

1.1 To institutionalize the MFPCs in the DENR system, DENR Regional Executive Directors shall establish at least a Regional

MFPC. Thereafter, MFPCs may be established in the provinces, towns cities and barangays using the priority criteria set by DENR.

- 1.2 To ensure that the MFPC process of consultation, selection, orientation, training and operationalization, is followed, the ENR-SECAL Project Management Office (ENR-SECAL PMO), National Forestation Development Office (NFDO), Special Concerns Office (SCO) and DENR Human Resources Development Services Office (HRDSO) shall conduct the necessary orientation and training in the creation of MFPC's.

SEC. 2 CREATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF MFPC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWG)

Section 5, DAO NO. 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 shall now read as follows:

- 2.1 To provide backstaff to the MFPCs created, Technical Working Groups (TWG) with respective Secretariat in all levels are hereby created.
- 2.2 Each TWG shall be supported by a full time Secretariat to be designated by the DENR whose membership shall be recommended by the TWG, and provided with required office equipment complement. To ensure and facilitate coordination between DENR and MFPC members, the Undersecretary for Field Operations, Regional Executive Directors, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers and Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers are hereby instructed to provide MFPC desk and Secretariat office shall serve as central MFPC coordinating office and shall be manned

by the MFPC TWG Secretariat who shall receive and release MFPC matters and assist the MFPC members whenever the latter are working in the DENR offices.

2.a Composition of Technical Working Groups

2.a.1 National TWG (NTWG)

- Chairman - Director, Forest Management
 Bureau
- Co-Chairman - Director, Directorate for
 Operation
- Members - Director, Environment
 Management Bureau
 - Director, Protected Areas and
Wildlife Bureau
 - Director, Planning and Policy
Studies Office
 - Director, Special Concerns
Office
 - Director, Human Resources
Development Services
 - Director, Public Affairs Office
 - Director, National Forestation
Development Office
- Director, ENR-SECAL
Program
- Director, Natural Resources
Management Program
- Director, NAMRIA RSRDA
- Chairman, National MFPC
Federation
- Secretariat - Appointed four (4) full time
 staff

2.a.2 Regional TWG (RTWG)

Chairman - Regional Technical Director,
Forest Management
Services

Co-Chairman - Chief, Forest Resources
and Conservation Division

Members - Chief, Legal Division
- Chief, Integrated Social
Forestry Division
- Chief, Regional
Public Affairs Office
- Chief, Planning Division
- Chief, Forest Resources
Development Division

Secretariat - Appointed three (3) full time
staff

2.a.3 Provincial TWG (PTEG)

Chairman - PENRO, Forest Management
Specialist

Members - PENRO, Integrated Social
Forestry Officer
- PENRO, Information Officer
- PENRO, Environment Mana-
gement Specialist
- PENRO, Planning Officer

Secretariat - Appointed three (3) full time
staff

2.a.4 Municipal/City/Barangay TWG(MTWG/CTWG/BTWG)

- Chairman - CENRO, Forest Management Specialist
- Members - CENRO, Environment Management Specialist
 - CENRO, Information Officer
 - CENRO Forest Protection Officer
 - CENRO Planning Officer
- Secretariat - Appointed three (3) full time staff

2.b General Functions of Technical Working Group

The TWG shall have the following general functions:

- 2.b.1** Provide technical, legal and other required support services to MFPCs;
- 2.b.2** Coordinate and facilitate implementation of MFPC activities;
- 2.b.3** Coordinate MFPC meetings, prepare minutes, resolutions, store and process data and, ensure that MFPC activities are attended to; and
- 2.b.4** Follow-up resolutions, request, reports and perform other pertinent actions so desired by the MFPCs.

2.c Training of Technical Working Groups

The ENR-SECAL PMO, NFDO, SCO and HRDSO shall conduct the necessary orientation training/workshops to the MFPC TWGs.

SEC. 3 LEVELS OF MFPC

Section 6, DAO No. 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 shall now read as follows:

The different levels of MFPCs and their functions are:

3.a National MFPC Federation (NMFPC Fed)

- 3.a.1** When called upon, participate in the review of forest and environmental laws and policies, recommend amendments and/or modification of the same, and advise the DENR Secretary on matters pertaining to forest protection;
- 3.a.2** Assist the field MFPCs in information and education campaigns on forest protection, enforcement of forestry laws and prosecution of violators thereof, and in the strengthening of field MFPCs;
- 3.a.3** Assist DENR Central Office in the generation of, and in prioritization of alternative livelihood programs for people affected by forest protection campaigns;
- 3.a.4** Formulate general guidelines for the organization of MFPCs and accredit MFPCs that will be formed;
- 3.a.5** Harmonize the resolutions of the different MFPCs and ensure prompt action on them; and

3.a.6 In general, assist DENR Central Office in conducting a sustained national forest protection campaign towards sustainable development.

3.b **Regional MFPC (RMFPC)**

3.b.1 Serve as collection point for information in the region on illegal forestry activities tapping the independent networks to which its members belong;

3.b.2 Regular receive and discuss reports from DENR Regional Office in its routine and special monitoring, apprehension and prosecutorial activities;

3.b.3 Advise DENR Regional Office and other relevant parties on the above activities;

3.b.4 Publicize the Committee's discussions and findings, except where treated as confidential;

3.b.5 Except for the DENR representative, all other members shall be deputized and act as Deputy Environment and Natural Resources Officers (DENRO) with powers to apprehend violators of forest laws and regulations and illegal forest products, in accordance with DAO No. 41, S-91 as amended by DAO No. 96-14;

3.b.6 May serve as link to all MFPC levels when necessary;

- 3.b.7** Directly oversee the public awareness and alternative livelihood programs;
- 3.b.8** Mobilize members' networks in support of forest protection activities; and
- 3.b.9** Assist in the work of the provincial MFPCs.

3.c **Provincial MFPC (PMFPC)**

- 3.c.1** Serve as collection point for information in the province on illegal forestry activities, tapping the independent networks to which its members belong;
- 3.c.2** Regularly receive and discuss reports from DENR in its routine and special monitoring, apprehension and prosecutorial activities;
- 3.c.3** Advise PENR Office and other relevant parties on the above activities;
- 3.c.4** Publicize the Committee's discussions and findings, except where treated as confidential;
- 3.c.5** Act as a special monitoring arm for the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO);
- 3.c.6** Except for the DENR representative, all other members shall be deputized as and act as Deputy Environment and Natural Resources

No. 41, S-91 as amended by DAO No. 96-14;

3.d.3 Act as special monitoring arm of the Community Environment and natural Resources Office (CENRO);

3.d.4 Act as the CENRO's partner in the implementation of DENR's public awareness program;

3.d.5 Participate directly in the identification, formulation and implementation of livelihood programs for upland communities;

3.d.6 Mobilize members' networks in support of forest protection activities;

3.d.7 Publicize the Committee's discussions and findings except where treated as confidential; and

3.c.8 May serve as link to all MFPC levels when necessary;

SEC. 4 FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (NTWG)

The National MFPC Coordinating Group (NMFPC-CG) [Section 8a, DAO No. 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995] is dissolved and its role, duties and functions [Section 8b, DAO No. 17, Series of 1995 date 20 May 1995] are turned-over to and assumed by the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) as reconstituted in section 2.a.1, hereof.

SEC. 5 MONITORING BY MFPCs OF FOREST LICENSES, LEASES, AGREEMENTS, AND PERMITS

Section 9, DAO No. 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 shall now read as follows:

Social acceptability and natural resources sustainability shall guide DENR in the evaluation of applications for new and renewal of forest licenses, leases, agreements and permits. Towards this end, the Chairman of the concerned MFPC or duly authorized representative, shall be notified and participate in the evaluation of applications for new and renewal of forest licenses, leases, agreements and permits. The National MFPC Federation shall be furnished copies of approved forest licenses, leases, agreements and Permits for monitoring purposes.

SEC. 6 MFPC FUNDING

Section 12, DAO No. 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 shall now read as follows:

- 6.1** The operational requirements of the TWG offices including traveling expenses and per diems of the TWG members and Secretariat staff while on fieldwork or field mission shall continue to be provided and funded from the MFPC funds and appropriate funds of the respective offices of TWG members and Secretariat staff, subject to accounting rules and regulations.
- 6.2** Non-DENR MFPC members, at their own initiatives, may source out counterpart funds to support the operations of MFPC at all levels.
- 6.3** To augment monitoring funds of MFPCs, DENR filed offices, with the assistance of the MFPCs are hereby directed to

coordinate with local government units in their respective areas so that said LGUs may provide MFPCs with additional funds for monitoring activities out of the share of the LGUs from the national wealth or from other funds sources as may be deemed appropriate by the LGUs.

- 6.4** To enable the MFPC program to avail of environmental enhancement funds of other government agencies (OGA) and non-government and people's organizations (NGO/PO) and other local and foreign entities providing environmental enhancement funds grants, the DENR field offices, with the assistance and participation of the MFPCs, may forge joint, cooperative or other forms of alliances for the implementation of projects and programs in line with or supportive of the objectives and intents of the MFPCs.

SEC. 7 AUTHORITY OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR FIELD OPERATIONS TO ISSUE ADDITIONAL MFPC GUIDELINES

Section 13, DAO NO. 17, Series of 1995 dated 20 May 1995 shall now read as follows:

The Undersecretary for Field Operations with the recommendation of the NTWG is hereby authorized to issue additional guidelines as may be deemed necessary to make MFPC operations strong, effective and sustainable.

SEC. 8 REPEALING CLAUSE

All Administrative Orders, Circulars, Memoranda and other issuance's inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9 EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines. The Records Officer of DENR is hereby directed to file three (3) certified copies hereof with the UP Law Center pursuant to section 3(1), Chapter 2, Book VII of the Administrative Code of 1987.

VICTOR O. RAMOS

Secretary

Recommending Approval:

VIRGILIO Q. MARCELO

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