



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO : All Regional Executive Directors

FROM : The Undersecretary and Chief of Staff

SUBJECT : **CLARIFICATION ON THE SUSPENSION ON THE PROCESSING OF ALL REQUESTS FOR CUTTING PERMITS**

DATE : **FEB 05 2013.**

This pertains to the previous Memoranda dated 30 April 2012 and 22 June 2012 issued by the undersigned concerning the suspension on the processing of all requests for tree cutting permits, and a subsequent clarification on the said suspension, respectively.

To further clarify the contents of the above-mentioned memoranda, the following clarifications are made:

1. The cutting of planted trees within private lands shall be allowed subject to the clearance to be issued by the concerned Regional Executive Director.
2. The cutting of planted trees within public forest/timberlands and covered by existing tenure instruments shall be allowed provided that a clearance shall be issued by the concerned Regional Executive Director. Provided further that the cutting activity is in accordance with the pertinent plans e.g. IOP, CRMF/ 5-Year Work Plan, etc. that is duly approved by the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations.
3. The cutting of naturally growing trees, including premium species, within private lands and those to be affected by land development and government projects, including those cleared by the Office of the President, shall be allowed subject to the clearance/permit to be issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations.
4. The cutting of naturally growing trees within public forest/timberlands as provided in the exemptions under Section 2, Item 2.2 of the E.O. No. 23, read as follows:

"The DENR is likewise prohibited from issuing/renewing tree cutting permits in all natural and residual forests nationwide, except for clearing of road right of way by the DPWH, site

preparation for tree plantations, silvicultural treatment and similar activities, provided that all logs derived from the said cutting permits shall be turned over to the DENR for proper disposal. Tree cutting associated with cultural practices pursuant to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA Law) may be allowed only subject to strict compliance with existing guidelines of the DENR”

and those stipulated in the Memorandum from the Office of the Executive Secretary dated 20 October 2011 (as enumerated below), including those cleared by the Office of the President, shall be allowed subject to the clearance/permit to be issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations.

- a. Renewable energy projects such as geothermal, hydrothermal, dendrothermal, solar, and wind projects;
- b. Construction of transmission lines, telecommunications sites, sub-station sites, and other power generation projects, including maintenance activities on existing lines;
- c. Road right of way, rehabilitation/widening of roads, airstrips, and other infrastructure projects undertaken by government entities through private contractors;
- d. Trees in public and private places that pose danger to the human lives and/or properties as evaluated by the DENR;
- e. Mining operations with approved Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) for the construction of mining facilities and conduct of mineral exploration/extraction; and
- f. Other priority activities of government and government-approved projects and programs approved and certified as a priority project by the President.

FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.


ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEJ
Undersecretary

cc : The Undersecretary for Field Operations
The Undersecretary for Staff Bureau