

**Memorandum Circular
No. 12
July 17, 1990**

SUBJECT: Granting a Period of Filing Applications for Administrative Legalization (Free Patent) and Judicial Confirmation of Imperfect and Incomplete Titles Pursuant to Republic Act No.6940

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, noted hereunder are the salient features of Republic Act No. 6940 signed on March 28, 1990 by President of the Philippines and made effective on April 16, 1990, granting a period of filing applications for administrative legalization (free patent) and judicial confirmation of imperfect and incomplete titles pursuant to Republic Act No. 6940:
 - a. The period of filing applications for free patent and judicial confirmation of imperfect titles shall be effective on April 16, 1990 up to December 31, 2000;
 - b. Any natural born citizen of the Philippines who is not the owner of more than twelve (12) hectares and who, for at least thirty (30) years prior to the effectivity of this act, has continuously occupied and cultivated, either by himself or through his predecessors-in-interest a tract or tracts of public agricultural lands subject to disposition, who shall have paid the real estate tax thereon while the same has not been occupied by any person shall be entitled, under the provisions of this law, to have a free patent issued to him for such tract or tracts of land not to exceed twelve (12) hectares.
2. The investigation and processing of free patent applications in the Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 38 dated April 19, 1990 superseding Administrative Order No. 20 dated May 30, 1988, shall be in accordance with existing rules and regulations and shall fall under the operations of the "Handog Titulo Program".

3. The time shall be fixed in the entire archipelago for the filing of applications under Chapter VII of Commonwealth Act No. 141, as amended, shall not extend beyond December 31, 2000 except in the following provinces:

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| 1. Agusan del Norte | 11. Davao Oriental |
| 2. Agusan del Sur | 12. Sulu |
| 3. Cotabato | 13. Mt. Province |
| 4. South Cotabato | 14. Benguet |
| 5. Sultan Kudarat | 15. Kalinga Apayao |
| 6. Bukidnon | 16. Ifugao |
| 7. Lanao del Norte | 17. Maguindanao |
| 8. Lanao del Sur | 18. Tawi-Tawi and |
| 9. Davao del Norte | 19. Basilan |
| 10. Davao del Sur | |

where the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, shall determine or fix the time beyond which the filing of applications under this Chapter shall not extend: Provided, that the period shall apply only when the area applied does not exceed twelve (12) hectares.

4. All concerned shall be guided accordingly.

FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.
Secretary