

Memorandum Circular
No. 15
September 04, 1992

SUBJECT : Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

Under Section 2, Article XIII of RA 6734, the Organic Act creating the ARMM, the jurisdiction and control over all watershed, forest and national reservations and national parks has been retained by the national government through the DENR even if these reservations are located within the territory of ARMM such as the Lake Lanao Watershed Reservation (LLWR).

However, pursuant to the DENR-ARMM MOA executed on January 15, 1991, the management, rehabilitation and protection of watershed reservations, protected areas and national parks has been delegated to the ARMM. This delegation of authority, however, does not include utilization of forest resources in these areas as this is not allowed under the forestry law - PD 705. (Proclamation No. 817 dated 26 February 1992, mandated the DENR to administer and manage the LLWR, in coordination with other government agencies).

Accordingly, all permits to cut (TPSAs, PLTPs, etc.) issued by ARMM over these areas or within the LLWR are invalid. Forest products cut pursuant to the said permits issued by ARMM shall be subject to confiscation by the DENR even if said products are transported inside ARMM's territory. Thus, further to the memorandum dated March 13, 1992 reiterating to the Regional Executive Directors (REDs) the ban on the transport of said products outside ARMM's territory and the establishment of physical blockades in exit points, the REDs are hereby directed to apprehend, seize and confiscate these forest products even if the same are transported inside ARMM's territory.

PLTP/SPLTP issued by ARMM in areas which are not within the reservations are valid but are subject to national policies issued by the DENR on the matter such as the ban on the transport of logs/lumber cut pursuant to these permits outside the province where the PLTP/SPLTP is located and the suspension of the processing and issuance of the same. However, as agreed during the dialogue between DENR and ARMM officials on 25 August 1992, those forest products cut outside the LLWR prior to December 10, 1991 shall be allowed to be disposed of/transported outside the province subject to reasonable conditions to be agreed upon by DENR and ARMM.

RICARDO M. UMALI
OIC, Secretary