

Memorandum Circular
No. 14
September 03, 1992

SUBJECT : Prescribing Guidelines in the Verification of Overlaps Between the Boundaries of Forestlands and Alienable and Disposable (A&D) Lands

In order to prevent issuance of patents over claims which may be inside forest zones by relocating the previously established forest boundaries, the following guidelines are hereby issued for the guidance and compliance of all concerned:

A. In municipalities where cadastral surveys or Public Land Subdivision surveys have been completed:

1. A verification survey shall be conducted to determine the overlapping Forest Zone (FZ) and A&D areas using the existing Land Classification (LC) maps. Forest zone corners and/or natural boundaries shall be located from established reference points of the cadastral project;
2. To undertake the verification survey, the Regional Executive Director shall create a composite team to be composed of representatives from the Land Management Services and Forest Management Services;
3. A new survey shall be plotted in the cadastral maps of the project survey;
4. All cadastral lots found to be falling within areas classified as forestlands or unclassified lands shall be voided. Similarly, public land applications in these areas shall be automatically cancelled;

In case such areas are inhabited by forest occupants they shall be considered under the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). They shall be properly advised if they qualify under the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

5. In the event that amendment to the technical descriptions of areas verified to be falling under forestlands classification pursuant to PD 705, shall not be done until such time that Congress shall have passed the applicable law related to land classification as provided for in RA 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARP).

B. In on-going cadastral surveys:

1. In cadastral projects that are in progress, the recoverable markers of the Forest Zone shall be located by direct shots from nearby controls of the project or by circuit, loop or connection traverse using the controls of the cadastre;
2. The established Forest Zone markers shall be located in coordination with Foresters assigned by the CENRO;
3. Claims within unclassified areas and inside classified forest zone may be surveyed, subject to the prior authority granted by the Regional Executive Director, as integrated Social Forestry Lots and shall be reflected in the Social Forestry Map as described in DENR Administrative Order No. 72, s-1990.

C. This Order shall take effect immediately.

RICARDO M. UMALI
Acting Secretary