

DENR Memorandum Circular
No. 26
July 08, 1994

SUBJECT : Flagship Program for the Indigenous Cultural Communities under the Social Reform Agenda.

The Government has adopted a Social Reform Agenda in support of Philippines 2000, the Administration's blueprint for attaining NIC status by the year 2000.

Under the said Agenda, our Department is tasked with the implementation of the flagship program for indigeous cultural communities i.e. Protection of Ancestral Domains. The specific activities which the DENR is mandated to implement are the following:

1. Review of all policy issuances pertaining to ICC concerns;
2. Full and immediate implementation of DENR Administrative Order No. 02, Series of 1993 in the priority areas for 1994 (Bukidnon, Agusan del Sur, Davao del Sur, Occidental Mindoro and the Cordillera Region);
3. Interfacing of political/legal structures of governance with ICC traditional socio-political structures; and
4. Creation of appropriate mechanisms for an Integrated Area Development (IAD) program for priority ICC settlements.

In view hereof, the following instructions are hereby issued, to wit:

1. For Regions 4, 10 and 11, CARP funds allocated for the implementation of DAO No. 02, S-1993 shall be utilized in the identified priority provinces.
2. For CAR, the CARP funds shall be utilized as counterpart to the funds committed by the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute for the seven (7) sites identified under the Memorandum of Agreement dated 15 April 1994.

3. All Regions shall prepare a comprehensive Work and Financial Plan for the implementation of DAO No. 02 in 1995. The Plan shall include development and management of recognized ancestral domain claims as called for under Article VI of said Order. It shall be submitted to the Special Concerns Office not later than 31 July 1994.
4. All activities shall be concentrated on the identification, delineation and recognition of ancestral domain claims except for Baguio City wherein priority shall be on ancestral land claims.
5. Henceforth, the terms “indigenous cultural communities” and “indigenous peoples” shall be consistently used to refer to this sector of our society.
6. All Regional Offices and Provincial Special Task Forces on Ancestral Domain including the Community Special Task Force on Ancestral Lands in Baguio City are encouraged to undertake initiatives relative to the concerns of the ICCs provided that the Special Concerns Office shall be duly informed of such undertaking and the activities involved are supportive of DAO No. 02. This is necessary to ensure that all activities are coordinated and in accordance with the Social Reform Agenda.
7. In all Regional Offices and PENR Offices with ICC concerns including CENRO Pacdal, Baguio City, an ICC Concerns Desk shall be created under the direct supervision of the Regional Executive Director and the concerned Task Force Chairman, respectively. Funds for said Desk shall come from the DENR regular funds allotted for the implementation of DAO No. 02. The Desk Officers shall preferably come from those who have undergone the ICC Orientation and Immersion in February, 1990. The names of the assigned Regional, Provincial and Baguio CENRO Desk Officers shall be submitted to the Special Concerns Office within one week upon receipt of this Memorandum.
8. All field activities in the implementation of DAO No. 02 shall be coordinated with the concerned Provincial Special Task Force on Ancestral Domain.
9. In the implementation of all projects/activities on environment and natural resources, the concerns of the ICCs shall always be considered.

10. A monthly status report shall be submitted to the Special Concerns Office. The report shall include a list of ancestral domain/land claim applications, name of the ICC group and its bonafide leader/s, estimated number of beneficiaries, location, indicative area and affected land-use/s.
11. As a reminder, the implementation of DAO No. 02 is a MUST KEY RESULT AREA.
12. These instructions should be relayed to all of your units and field offices. Copies of the Special Reform Agenda shall also be provided to said offices.

FOR IMMEDIATE AND STRICT COMPLIANCE.

ANGEL C. ALCALA
Secretary