

DENR Memorandum Order
No. 20
August 12, 1994

SUBJECT : Moratorium on Sawmilling Operations in the Provinces of Aurora and Quezon.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 192 dated June 1987, among others, the DENR to effectively protect and enhance the quality of the environment and in view of the insistent clamor of non-government organizations and other cause-oriented groups to arrest extraction of timber in the provinces of Aurora and Quezon, a **MORATORIUM** on the operations of sawmills without backup timber concessions (Timber License Agreements) in the aforementioned provinces and the movement of timber and wood products to and from said processing plants is hereby ORDERED until further notice:

In consonance herewith, the following implementing guidelines and instructions are hereby issued:

1. The Regional Executive Director (RED) of Region IV-A shall cause the inventory of the log and lumber stocks of the sawmills operating in Maria Aurora and Dingalan, Province of Aurora, and Real and Mauban, Province of Quezon, within three (3) days after the issuance of this Order, and with the participation of local members of Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committees in the two provinces;
2. Based from the inventory conducted, the RED shall determine the period within which the aforesaid sawmills can mill and dispose their respective log and lumber stocks at the millsite, after which the processing plants shall be ordered closed and padlocked by the RED or his authorized representative, or dismantled preparatory to the possible transfer of said processing plants outside the affected provinces;
3. Any log and lumber not milled or disposed after issuance of the closure order shall be subject to confiscation;
4. The transport of logs and lumber along the coastline of Aurora and Quezon shall be allowed only through the use of barges, LCTs, and other large sea-faring vessels;

5. The use of the Umiray River as a transport route for logs is hereby **DISCONTINUED**. All logs passing through the said river route shall be considered as coming from illegal sources and shall be subject to outright confiscation;
6. TLA/IFMA holders who are themselves holder of permits to operate a sawmill/wood processing plant shall allocate at least ten percent (10%) of their production for sale to the local residents; and
7. The RED shall prepare and submit to the Secretary within ten (10) days from issuance hereof, an Implementing Plan consistent with this Order, which shall include, among others, the active involvement of the local Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committees (MFPCs) in the effective execution of the said plans. He is likewise ordered to submit a bi-weekly status report on the implementation and compliance with this Order.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY:

BEN S. MALAYANG III
Undersecretary for Field Operations

INDORSED:

RICARDO M. UMALI
Undersecretary for Natural
Resources Management

ROMULO D. SAN JUAN
Assistant Secretary for
Legal Affairs

LOPE D. REYES
Director, FMB