

**Memorandum Circular**

**No. 98 - 07**

**June 18, 1998**

**SUBJECT : Confirming the Department's Commitment to Support Efforts to Address the Issue of Displacement Caused by Development Projects and Designating the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs and Attached Agencies as Focal Point to Realize Such Commitment.**

Under DENR Special Order No. 169, Series of 1998 (SO 98-169), a Study Team was created to address displacement brought about by development projects. The Study Team, pursuant to its mandate, prepared a Report on the result of its displacement studies which was presented in a meeting organized by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and the Social Reform Council (SRC) held last 7-9 June 1998.

The Report of the Study Team contained commitments and agreements on appropriate government responses to displacement. The commitments made by DENR consist of long-term and short-term undertakings. Most of the commitments have not been actualized.

In order to expedite and carry out effectively the commitments contained in the aforesaid Report as well as to institutionalize a process by which issues and concerns relating to displacement are to be resolved, the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative

Affairs and Attached Agencies is hereby designated as the Focal Point for displacement concerns in the Department.

The Focal Point shall:

- (a) Oversee the implementation of appropriate responses to displacement which were identified in the Report of the Study Team created under SO 98-169;
- (b) Adopt a process/operational framework by which DENR can respond to specific issues on displacement;
- (c) Assist, whenever appropriate, NGOs, POs, IPs and other community organizations in coming up with solutions to specific displacement problems;
- (d) Formulate appropriate government responses to displacement and advise the Secretary for the issuance of relevant policies and mechanisms to prevent displacement or resolve displacement issues;
- (e) Obtain the assistance of, or assign responsibilities to, any office, bureau and attached office or agency of the Department to facilitate compliance with the foregoing tasks; and
- (f) Continue and strengthen the Department's linkage with the OPAPP and the SRC with a view to establishing a pro-active mechanism to prevent, discourage or minimize displacement resulting from any development project, whenever the development project is within the jurisdiction of the DENR.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

**(Sgd.) VICTOR O. RAMOS**  
Secretary