

Memorandum Order
No. 98 - 06
March 23, 1998

SUBJECT : Moratorium on the Acceptance of All New Applications and the Approval of All Pending Applications for Small-Scale Mining Permits, Quarrying Permits, Mining Contracts/ Agreements, and Corresponding ECCs, in the Municipality of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Province of Rizal.

In order to provide adequate protection to the environment as mandated under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 (R.A. 7942), the Small-scale Mining Laws (P.D. 1899 and R.A. 7076), environmental laws, and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations, and to rationalize current mining/quarrying/crushing operations, a **MORATORIUM** on the acceptance of all new applications, and the approval of pending applications and renewals, for mining/quarrying/crushing in the Municipality of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Province of Rizal, is hereby **ORDERED** until further notice.

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

1. This **MORATORIUM** shall cover the acceptance of all new applications for small-scale mining permits, quarry permits, mining contracts/agreements, as well as environmental clearances for mining/quarrying/crushing activities in the Municipality of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Province of Rizal;

2. The approval of all pending applications for mining and crushing operations shall temporarily be held in abeyance, pending the results of investigations and submission of report/recommendations by the Multi-Sectoral Committee;
3. The approval of requests for renewal of existing mining rights previously granted through duly approved permits, contracts, or agreements shall also be temporarily held in abeyance until the submission of the report of the Multi-Sectoral Committee on the environmental and community track records of the applicants;
4. There is hereby created a Multi-Sectoral Committee on Mining/Quarrying/Crushing Operations in Rodriguez which shall be chaired by the MGB Regional Director, with membership composed of representatives from the EMB, R.O. IV-EMPAS, PENRO/CENRO, an environmental NGO, and other concerned sectors as may be defined by the Committee;
5. The Committee shall have the following functions, duties and responsibilities:
 - a. Ensure that the Moratorium Order is effectively enforced and adequately monitored;
 - b. Evaluate and assess the current status of mining/quarrying/crushing operations in the area;
 - c. Undertake necessary investigations of complaints and any violation of mining and environmental laws, rules and regulations, and ECC conditionalities;
 - d. Prepare specific recommendations and action plans to appropriate authorities to implement any necessary actions and impositions to adequately address such complaints and/or violations;
 - e. Submit monthly reports on their observations and recommendations to the Undersecretary for Field Operations;

- f. In coordination with the LGUs and the communities, formulate a strategic development plan that would minimize, if not eliminate, adverse environmental impacts of all on-going and future mining/quarrying/crushing operations in the area;
6. The MGB Regional Director/Chairman of the Multi-Sectoral Committee shall, within fifteen (15) days from the issuance hereof, prepare and submit to the Secretary specific action plans and timetables to effectively implement this Order;
7. The Multi-Sectoral Committee shall submit their reports of investigation and specific recommendations to the Secretary within sixty (60) days from the submission and approval of the Action Plan to implement this Order;
8. All expenses to be incurred by members of the Multi-Sectoral Committee shall be charged against the funds of their respective offices, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until the completion of the tasks and accomplishments of all objectives, or otherwise lifted or terminated by the Secretary.

(Sgd.) VICTOR O. RAMOS
Secretary