REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG (National Irrigation Administration) Lungsod ng Quezon

MC # 26 , s. 2009

MEMORÁNDUM CIRCULAR

TO

THE ACTING SR. DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, ACTING DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT / REGIONAL / OPERATIONS / PROJECT MANAGERS, IMO DIVISION MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT

FOCAL AGENCY/BUREAU IN THE PENDING HOUSE BILLS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quoted hereunder in full for your information and guidance the Memorandum from the Office of the Undersecretary of the Policy and Planning, Department of Agriculture, dated June 11, 2009.

"Republika ng Pilipinas KAGAWARAN NG PAGSASAKA Tanggapan ng Undersecretary Policy, Planning, Project Development, R&D 3F DA, Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100, Quezon City, Philippines Telefax: (632) 920-4084 e-mail: *llanera72@hotmail/yahoo.com*

June 11, 2009

MEMORANDUM

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FOR

USEC. BERNIE G, FONDEVILLA USEC. JESUS EMMANUEL M. PARAS ASEC. SALVADOR S. SALACUP ASEC. DENNIS B. ARAULLO, GMA Corn/OIC-RFU IV-A **DIR. FRISCO M. MALABANAN, GMA Rice** DR. RENE RAFAEL C. ESPINO, GMA-HVCC **DIR. NORLITO R. GICANA, FPA** DIR. ASTERIO P. SALIOT, ATI **DIR. JOEL S. RUDINÁS, BPI** DIR. DAVINIO P. CATBAGAN, BAI DIR. NICOMEDES P. ELEAZAR, BAR **DIR. GILBERTO F. LAYESE, BAFPS DIR. MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, BFAR DIR. ROMEO S. RECIDE, BAS** DIR. JOVITA M. CORPUZ, ACPC ADM. OSCAR G. GARIN, PCA

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		DIR. LAMBERTO R. BARBIN, PCIC
		DIR. SILVINO Q. TEJÁDÁ, BSWM
		AMD. JESSUP P. NÁVÁRRO, NFA
		DIR. JANE C. BACAYO, NMIS
		ADM. NAOMI K. TORRETA, NDA
		ADM. CARLITOS S. ENCARNACION, NTA
		ADM. CARLOS S. SALÁZAR, NIA
		DIR. ALLAN Á. JAVELLANÁ, NABCOR
		DIR. RICARDO L. CACHUELA, BPHRE
		DIR. RONILO A. BERONIO, PHILRICE
		ADM. RAFAEL COSCOLLÚELA, SRÁ
		Ms. Joy Mamon, DA Legislative Liaison Group
FROM	:	(SGD.) UNDERSECRETARY SEGFREDO R. SERRANO
		Policy and Planning
RE	:	FOCAL AGENCY/BUREAU IN THE PENDING HOUSE
		BILLS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We would like to inform you that there are various pending house bills in the House of Representatives with agriculture concerns. For the Department to keep track of its progress, may we request you to please serve as the focal agency/bureau/service of the house bill/s relevant to your agency. As the focal agency, you shall guide and direct, in coordination with the Policy Research Service (PRS), the Department on the: (1) issues and concerns of your concerned house bills which shall serve as guide in the formulation and/or finalization of our position paper; and (2) attendance to public hearings and technical working group (TWG) meetings.

For your reference, we have attached herewith the list of the pending house bills and its corresponding focal agencies.

Thank you and for compliance please."

In view of the above, the Engineering and Operation Sector is enjoined to study the Bills that may have impact on irrigation; solicit comments from the Regional Irrigation Offices; prepare position papers that may be required; and assign representative/(s) to serve as resource person/(s)/representative/(s) of NIA during public hearings/deliberations of said bills if and when invited.

For strict compliance.

ALÁZÁR strator

Date: June <u>23</u>, 2009

(As of June 2009)

_ TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA ON THE BILL/S
An Act Instituting a National Land Use Policy, Providing the Implementing	BSWM	Fully supports the Bills.
Mechanisms Therefor and for Other Purposes		 The proposed bills seek to protect and further rationalize existing agriculture land use. The proposed bills provide that prime agricultural lands and specific types of lands shall be protected from conversion. The bills support the delineation of watershed areas that need to be protected, enhanced and/ or withdrawn from uses that contribute to its further degradation and the implementation of an integrated watershed management.
An Act Broadening the Scope of Compliance and Expanding the Conduit Network for Agri-Agra Credit Amending for this Purpose PD 717 Otherwise Known as the Agri-Agra Law		-DA supports the bills. -These Bills ensure that the alternative forms of compliance are related to agriculture, thus, would directly benefit our small farmers. -We support removing the sub-quota allocations (i.e.15% for agriculture credit & 10% for agrarian reform), thereby treating the 25% loan quota as generic quota.

Page 1

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	
		ON THE BILL/S
. · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		These changes would allow the banks to have
		the flexibility in allocating their quota among
		different beneficiary sub-sectors and borrowers
		are also given their share of responsibility in
		ensuring that the projects they undertake
		are viable.
An Act Reorganizing the	NFA	-The DA supports the Substitute Bill.
National Food Authority (NFA)		-The proposed Bill would strengthen the NFA
nto the National Food		financially and organizationally.
Corporation and the Food		-We support to "wipe-clean" the NFA's current
Development and Regulatory		books.
Administration, Redefining		-The DA agrees that the NFA to be governed
heir Powers, Appropriating	-	by the Council to be chaired by the Secretary
Funds Therefor and For		of Agriculture & Co-chaired by the
Other Purposes		by the Administrator of the NFA.
Aller Fulhoses		-The substitute bill aims to terminate the
		"buy high policy and sell low policy"

(As of June 2009)

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA	
		ON THE BILL/S	·
An Act Broader Protection for	BAFPS, BAI, BFAR, BPI, FPA, NMIS,	-DA recommended to work within a simple	
Consumers Amending for the Purpose	NDA, PCA	structural framework of a consumer act.	
Republic Act No. 7394, Otherwise		The DA submitted its comments/inputs	
Known as the Consumer Act of	· ·	to the DTI (who shall consolidate the other	ĺ
the Philippines		agencies comments) last March 2009.	
An Act Amending the Agriculture &	NAFC	-Fully supports the Bill.	
Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA)		-The proposed Bill would support and boost	
Otherwise Known as	·	agricultural competitiveness.	4
RA 8435 by Providing for the		-The Department agrees that the exemption	
Grant of VAT Exemption to		of agricultural inputs which compose the	
All Enumerated Agricultural		key ingredients of agriculture products used,	
nputs		traded and consumed by the economy will	
		alleviate the plight of farmers who suffer from	
		the high costs of inputs.	
		-The Bill will enhance agriculture	
		productivity.	
An Act Establishing	BSWM	-DA fully supports the Bill.	
he Framework Program for		-Recommended that the DA be one of the	
limate Change, Creating the		voting members in the created Climate	+
limate Change Commission,		Commission	
ppropriating Funds Therefor,			
nd For Other Purposes			·
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(As of June 2009)

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA
		ON THE BILL/S
The Consolidated Investments and		-The DA seeks exemption of the incentives
Incentives Code of the Philippines	PRS	granted to agriculture & fisheries from the
		proposed consolidation.
		-The DA advocates the retention of the incentives
		under the existing agriculture & fisheries laws.
,		This is because the incentives provided under
		the proposed Code are not tailor-made to meet
		the needs of agriculture and fishery enterprises.
Magna Carta of Agriculture and	ATI	-The DA supports the intent of the two bills
Fishery Extension/Development		particularly on rights and incentives, on
Officers and Employees	··· .	professionalism of agriculture services and on
		mandatory positions of agricultural development
		workers/extension workers in the LGUs.
An Act Creating the Philippine Trade	PRS	The DA supports the Bills as these would
Representative Office, Appropriating		rationalize the trade and investment negotiations
Funds Therefor, And For Other		mandate and functions into one specialized
Purposes		center of authority, responsibility and
· .		accountability.
An Act Prescribing the Strengthening	ATI, BFAR	-The Department supports the bill.
of the National Extension System to		-Suggestions were made to review the powers
Accelerate Agricultural and Fisheries		and functions of the PAFEA vis-à-vis BFAR,
Development or The Philippine		professionalizing the agricultural extension and
Agriculture and Fisheries Extension		budgetary requirements.
Act of 2008		

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(As of June 2009)

FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA
	ON THE BILL/S
	Amendment to HB Nos. 15 and 155, Section
BPI, BAI, NMIS, FPA, SRA	1212 to read as follows:
NFA	1 · · ·
	Section 1212. Sanitary and Phytosanitary
•	Clearance and Certificate For Agriculture
	Products. "No agricultural products shall be
·	accepted for loading and/or transported by a vessel or aircraft into the country without the necessary sanitary and phytosanitary clearance issued by the Department of Agriculture and the relevant SPS certification from the responsible authority in the country of origin prior to shipment"
	-The DA has reservations on establishing the National Food Security Council. -The DA believes that there are various efforts/ initiatives at the legislative branch addressing the policy and organizational issues relevant to the mandate of the DA in ensuring food security.
NFA	
	BPI, BAI, NMIS, FPA, SRA NFA

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA ON THE BILL/S
An Act Establishing Emergency Rice Reserves and For Other Purposes	PhilRice,NFA, GMA Rice	- The DA supports the intent of the proposed rice related legislative measures to ensure adequate, stable and affordable rice supply in the country.
An Act Establishing a Strategic Food Security Rice Reserve and For Other Purposes	PhilRice,NFA, GMA Rice	
An Act to Accelerate the Development of Idle and Underutilized Agricultural Lands as a Means to Generate Employment	BSWM	
An Act Authorizing Farmer Organizations to Undertake Rice Importations, Providing Fund Assistance And For Other Purposes	PhilRice,NFA, GMA Rice	
An Act Establishing the Philippine Cereals Research Development And Extension Institute (PHILCEREAL), and Appropriating Funds Therefor	PhilRice, BPI, GMA Com, GMA Rice HVCC	
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TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA ON THE BILL/S
An Act Promoting Corporate Farming and Providing Incentives Thereof	PhilRice, BSWM, GMA Rice, FOS, NABCOR	- The DA supports the intent of the Bill which is to encourage more private sector participation in agricultural production in attaining food sufficiency in the country.
		-Corporate farming could provide an opportunity to synchronize the technological components as well as to efficiently utilize farm facilities for optimum production.
•		- The DA adheres to the corporate farming arrangements, however, private small land owners should be offered decent lease rentals and make them partners in the development.
An Act Reverting to the National Government the Discharge of Basic Agricultural Functions and Responsibilities Devolved to Local Government Units and Amending for he Purpose Republic Act No. 7160, Otherwise Known as the Local Government Code of 1991		-The DA would like to work within the Local Government Code. -The DA would like to propose putting in place safeguard measures for the effective and responsive delivery of agriculture and fishery extension services.

(As of June 2009)

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA ON THE BILL/S	
An Act to Enhance the Philippine Environmental Impact Assesment (EIA) System, To Strengthen Public Participation Therein, And For Related Purposes	BSWM, BFAR, FPA	-The DA supports the proposed bills in making the EIA System responsive to attain sustainable development. -The DA supports the scope of the EIA System and project categories and classifications as proposed in HB 960.	
An Act Automatically Assigning To Government Insurance Proceeds of Corporations Undertaking Industrial Projects Whenever Major Accident, Disaster or Catastrophic Event Occurs Involving their Industrial Project Causing Damage to Persons, Property and Environment	BSWM, BFAR, FPA	-The DA recommends to maitain that the DENR be the lead implementing agency as they have the considerable expertise.	
An Act to Streamline the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System, Amending P.D. 1586, And For Other Purposes	BSWM, BFAR, FPA		
An Act Creating the Philippine Rubber Research Institute to Develop the Philippine Rubber Industry	1	-The Department believes that the needs of the rubber industry are currently addressed by the Department through the BAR and HVCC.	

(As of June 2009)

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA
		ON THE BILL/S
Farmland as Collateral	ACPC	The DA supports the intent of the proposed bills but certain issues need to be addressed such as: -real market value of the CARP awarded lands -transferability of awarded lands -collateral value of foreclosed CARP lands will be enhanced if to open to the free market -feasibility of the CLOA, EP, OCT or TCT e.g. if these are within existing financial rules and regulations, as negotiable instruments
An Act Providing for the Promotion of Organic Farming	BSWM, BPI, BAFPS, BAR FPA, PhilRice	 The DA supports the proposed legislations which all pertain to the promotion of organic farming in the Philippines. The DA supports the utilization of existing environment friendly inputs and farm oriented approaches.
An Act Creating the Mindanao Development Authority Defining its Powers and Functions and For Other Purposes		-The Department supports the creation of one (1) Office, the Mindanao Development Authority, to orchestrate the proper distribution & utilization of resources in the Island of Mindanao.
An Act Restructuring the Excise Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco Products	NTA, PCA and SRA	

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TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA	
		ON THE BILL/S	
An Act Reorganizing the Philippine Statistical System, Repealing for the Purpose Executive Order No. 121- Reorganizing and Strengthening the Philippine Statistical System and For Other Purposes An Act Reorganizing the Philippine Statistical System	BAS	-The Department has some reservation on the proposed bills. The proposed organizational set-up is large and complex rather than promoting a smooth process for securing information, thus, could be a hindrance to the timely delivery of statistical outputs and services to clients which include policy and decision makers in government and other stakeholders.	
An Act to Regulate Pesticide Chemical Residues in Food for the Purpose Executive An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Program to Ensure the Safety of Food Products Intended for Human Consumption	FPA BAFPS, BPI, BAI, NMIS, NFA	-The Department supports the intent of the proposed house bills which is to regulate the use of pesticide chemicals in the processing of food. The Department agrees to the setting up of tolerance level, threshold pesticides and margin of safety of a pesticide chemical residue that will not cause harm to human health.	
An Act Establishing the Pili Development Authority Defining its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes	HVCC	-The DA supports the intent of the proposed bills. However, the Department believes that the needs of the pili industry are currently addressed by the Department through the HVCC.	

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA ON THE BILL/S	
An Act to Prescribe the Customs and Tariff Modernization Act of 2008 and For Other Purposes	BPI, BAI, BFAR, NMIS NFA, SRA	-DA recommends a re-structuring of the existing customs procedure by including a provision in the Act for a separate and independent pre-border processing of imported goods. Further, comments were also provided on the regulations relevant to the imposition of safeguard duties.	
Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization Law	BPHRE, PhilRice, NIA, BFAR, BPI	-DA supports the proposed bills. -The proposed legislations are consistent with the AFMA where the DA is mandated to give priority to the development & promotion of appropriate agricultural machinery and other agricultural mechanization technologies to bring about agricultural mechanization in the countryside.	
An Act Providing the Framework and Support System for the Ownership, Management, Use and Commercialization of Intelectual Property Generated from Research and Development Funded by Government	- -	DA supports the establishment of a policy framework and support system on the protection of intellectual property generated from research and development funded by the government. The proposed measures are consistent with the issued directives of the DA which encourage technological innovations, creations & inventions by DA bureaus & agencies.	

TITLE	FOCAL AGENCIES/BUREAUS/SERVICE	POSITION OF DA ON THE BILL/S
An Act Creating the Philippine Fruits Industry and Trade Authority	BPI	-The Department supports the intent of the proposed measure on the development of the Philippine fruits Industry. However, the Department still need to further study the need for the creation of the Philippine Fruits Industry and Trade Authority considering that the needs of the fruits industry are currently addressed by the Department.
An Act Establishing Trade Centers in the City of Malolos and the Municipalities of Bulacan	DA-RFU Region IV-A	The Department supports the proposed bill on the establishment of farm and MSME trade centers in the Province of Bulacan where these serve as venues for agricultural product expositions. We also welcome that the DA shall be the lead national government agency in implementing this proposed legislation and in providing technical assistance.
Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998	BFAR	-The Department supports amending Section 87 of RA 8550 otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. -The Department recognizes that the problem of poaching in Philippine waters is brought by
		weak enforcement of laws which maybe due to insufficient equipment or vessels utilized in surveillance activities.