



Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG REPORMANG PANSAKAHAN
 (DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM)
 Tanggapan ng Kalihim
 Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
 D-505

In reply, please address:

THE SECRETARY
 Department of Agrarian Reform
 P.O. Box No. 2993
 Manila

RB 7/3/73

DEPT.

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 16 RB

Quoted hereunder is the Memorandum of the President of the Philippines dated June 13, 1973:

"MEMORANDUM for:

"All Heads of Departments, Offices
 and Agencies of the Government

"I am deeply concerned about the present situation prevailing over the Muslim provinces in Mindanao particularly in Cotabato, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Basilan and Sulu. The recent incidents which created a state of lawlessness and disorder affecting public safety and security of the state has been initiated by secessionist elements identified with the Muslim Revolutionary Forces and believed to be led by young Muslim Maoist leaders who joined with the local outlaws. The government forces have now started to build up and are presently conducting internal stability operations. Local officials and civic-minded citizens in the above-mentioned areas are assisting the Armed Forces of the Philippines to avert the aggressiveness and determination of the present leaders of the various secessionist organizations to pursue their objectives. The National Disaster Control Center which is in charge of coordinating government relief operations has mobilized national and local agencies to funnel all necessary assistance to the affected areas.

"In this regard, I urge all government officials, particularly those stationed in the aforementioned areas, to exercise utmost caution in giving out any form of information or engaging in loose-talks on the Mindanao situation specifically on matters relative to lawless elements-occupied, or infested territory, strength and movements of AFP units, military and civilian casualties, and number of evacuees. This measure is instituted to preclude jeopardizing military operations, creating panic among the populace and any future complication arising from such release of information.

"All heads of departments, bureaus, offices and instrumentalities of the government, including all government-owned or controlled corporations, are hereby enjoined to advise their respective provincial agencies in the above-mentioned provinces to comply strictly with the provisions of this Circular.

"(SGD.) FERDINAND E. MARCOS
President of the Philippines"

All Officials and Employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform particularly those assigned in Regions IX and XI, are hereby enjoined to comply strictly with the aforesaid Memorandum, keeping in mind Memorandum Circular No. 8 of this Office, dated May 22, 1973, wherein I quoted Presidential Decree No. 90 "Declaring Unlawful Rumor-mongering and Spreading False Informations". Moreover, Regional Directors, District Officers, Team Leaders, and all supervisors at all levels should be vigilant in implementing the provisions of this Circular.

27 June, 1973, Diliman, Quezon City.


CONRADO P. ESTRELLA
Secretary

OGI/fvp