



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 17

TO : THE AGRARIAN LEGAL SECTOR
ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS
ALL PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM OFFICER II

ATTENTION : THE REGIONAL CHIEFS OF LEGAL DIVISION
THE PROVINCIAL CHIEFS OF LEGAL DIVISION

SUBJECT : SUSPENSION OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND PROCESSES FOR
AGRARIAN LAW IMPLEMENTATION CASES IN VIEW OF THE
MODIFIED ECQ UNTIL 31 MAY 2020

DATE : 18 May 2020

In view of the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine in the National Capital Region, Laguna Province, and Cebu City until 31 May 2020, the following are hereby ordered:

- 1.0. All scheduled hearings, on-site inspection and investigations, meetings, dialogues, mediation conferences and other proceedings pursuant to the regular or special ALI rules, are hereby suspended until 31 May 2020.

The aforementioned proceedings shall be rescheduled by the respective DAR office with proper notice to the concerned parties or on the basis of the agreement of the parties upon the lifting of the enhanced community quarantine and resumption of regular government operations.

- 2.0. The filing of petitions and appeals, motions, pleadings and other submissions involving all regular and special ALI cases that fall due during the modified enhanced community quarantine or up to 31 May 2020 is extended for 30 calendar days, counted from 01 June 2020, unless the period of quarantine is again extended.
- 3.0. The period of suspension of the regular and special ALI proceedings shall be lifted on 31 May 2020, unless a new extension of the modified enhanced community quarantine is announced.
- 4.0. All DAR offices within areas under the modified enhanced community quarantine, shall not accept any correspondence, written queries, appearances, petitions, appeals, motions, applications, or any submissions filed under the DAR ALI or DAR Special ALI Rules until the enhanced community quarantine is lifted and full government operations have resumed.


The reglementary periods for the commencement of any action relative to the regular and special ALI cases shall be deemed interrupted during the entire duration of the modified enhanced community quarantine. It is likewise understood that the periods for rendition of judgments, resolutions, or orders shall also be deemed interrupted during the said period.

- 5.0. In the exigency of the service, the Heads of Office and Chiefs, together with their respective skeleton staff, may be required to report to the office on any of the days from 18-21 May 2020.
- 6.0. DAR offices in areas under the General Community Quarantine from 16-31 May 2020, shall establish an official social media account, messenger, or electronic mail to allow stakeholders and clients to communicate, set an appointment, and file any submission electronically.

Likewise, a disinfection area shall be established in every DAR Regional and Provincial Office and shall continue to observe social distancing and other health precautionary measures in receiving walk-in clients and performing office functions.
- 7.0. The above-mentioned guidelines involving the regular and special ALI procedures and processes may be subject to change as the situation may warrant depending on the future directives that will be issued by the Office of the President or the IATF in connection with the current community quarantine.
- 8.0. Memorandum Circular Nos. 1, 6 and 14, all Series of 2020, are in force and effect insofar as it does not conflict with this Circular. All other previously issued circulars and their respective provisions which are not inconsistent herewith shall remain valid and in effect.

For the guidance of all concerned.


ATTY. JOHN R. CASTRIONES
Secretary


DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
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