

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 18**

TO : DAR ADJUDICATION BOARD
DARAB SECRETARIAT
CONCERNED REGIONAL AGRARIAN REFORM ADJUDICATORS
AND PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM ADJUDICATORS
CONCERNED DARAB PERSONNEL
CONCERNED LITIGANTS/COUNSELS/MEMBERS OF THE BAR

FROM : THE SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN, DARAB

SUBJECT : EXTENDED SUSPENSION OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND PROCESSES
IN PLACES UNDER ECQ/MECQ

DATE : MAY 15, 2020

Pursuant to and in compliance with the approval by the President of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases Resolution No. 37 classifying certain provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities as **high-risk** (Cebu City and Mandaue City) or **transitioning high-risk** (HUCs of NCR, province of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Zambalez, and Laguna) and placed them under the category "*Enhanced Community Quarantine*" (ECQ) and "*Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine*" (MECQ), respectively, **until May 31, 2020**, and in compliance with the latest Memoranda of the undersigned, the following are hereby ordered:

1. The offices of the Board Members, concerned Regional Adjudicators and Provincial Adjudicators, which are located in places under "ECQ/MECQ" shall continually be closed for the duration of the declared state of public health emergency until May 31, 2020.
2. All mandatory mediation conferences (preliminary conference) and hearings in the offices of the Board Members, concerned Regional Adjudicators and Provincial Adjudicators, which are located in places under "ECQ/MECQ" scheduled between 15 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 are continually suspended and further reset. The date of resetting will be subject for further notice.
3. The reglementary period for the filing of pleadings, motions, position papers, and other relevant papers in the offices of the Board Members, concerned Regional Adjudicators and Provincial Adjudicators, which are located in places under "MECQ/ECQ" remain as deemed interrupted from 15 March 2020 until 31 May 2020. The period for the filing of such pleadings, motions, position papers, and other relevant papers shall be further extended to run again on 01 June 2020 based on the actual balance of the period as of March 15, 2020.
4. The reglementary period for the rendition of judgment (30 days) and resolution of the Motion for Reconsideration (5 days) and other orders remain as interrupted in the offices of the Board Members, concerned Regional Adjudicators


and Provincial Adjudicators, which are located in places under "ECQ/MECQ" and shall be further extended to run again on 01 June 2020.

5. The transmittal of Records on Appeal to the Board (DARAB-Central Office) shall remain suspended from the period 15 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 and such transmittal shall be received by the Board thru the DARAB Secretariat on 01 June 2020.
6. The sectorial deadline to resolve all pending 2019-received cases earlier extended to 30 June 2020 is further extended until 15 July 2020.
7. Notwithstanding, all concerned Board Members and Adjudicators shall continually draft decisions and orders in their respective residences during the wake of MECQ/ECQ, which decisions and orders may be promptly promulgated or issued once their offices become fully operational.
8. In preparation for the conduct of returning to work upon the lifting of ECQ/MECQ, the assumption of the safety of the returning employees/staff should be given utmost consideration. In the meantime, skeleton-staff may be allowed to report for work to secure the needed office space reconfiguration in compliance with the guidelines set by the *New Normal Protocols* per DAR MC No. 15, series of 2020 and CSC MC No. 10, series of 2020.
9. Herein further extension of the aforesaid suspension shall be deemed as without prejudice to the exercise of discretion of the President to relax the implementation of the ECQ/MECQ or to the declaration of localized ECQ in some critical area of local jurisdictions.

All previously issued memoranda/circulars and their respective provisions which are not inconsistent herewith shall remain valid and in effect.

For your guidance and strict compliance.


ATTY. JOHN R. CASTRICIONES


DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
COVID19-OSEC-20-0529-041