



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Tunay na Pagbabago sa Repormang Agraryo

MEMORANDUM NO. 140

TO : ALL DAR OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES
CAR, Regions I to XII, CARAGA

FROM : The UNDERSECRETARY
Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT : URGENT REMINDERS ON HEALTH PROTOCOLS

DATE : 14 April 2020

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) issued last 03 April 2020 IATF Resolution No. 19 Series of 2020 is cognizant of the role of the DAR:

"The recognition of the authority to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to issue quarantine accreditation passes to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), to continue supplying agricultural products to critical areas affected by the ECQ;"

The IATF also issued last 06 April 2020 IATF Resolution No. 21, Series of 2020 which provides:

"All the agriculture and fishery stakeholders must be considered front liners and their movements shall remain unhampered."

The DAR plays a specific role in the efforts of the government to implement the necessary social amelioration measures. The DAR is the lead agency in the implementation of the CARP. It focuses its efforts within the national health emergency situation on the welfare of the ARBs and its organizations, communities and cooperatives. It also focuses on food security in the midst of the COVID- 19 threats. As the ARBs stand in the frontline of the battle against the virus, the selected employees of DAR must stand with its primary client.

- 1.0. This is a reminder to all personnel of the DAR in the central, regional, provincial, municipal and barangay levels to adhere to the required protocols as we undertake our specific tasks in the national health emergency. The following is culled from related literature from the Department of Health and other sources:
 - 1.1. Only designated personnel who have been issued the Quarantine Accreditation Pass shall be allowed to leave their home.
 - 1.2. DAR personnel authorized to leave their home must wear the requisite personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of the following:

- 1.2.1. Face mask
- 1.2.2. Protective face shield
- 1.2.3. Gloves
- 1.3. Personnel wearing the PPE must always desist from touching their eyes, nose or mouth and are advised to have the proper alcohol and/or soap for disinfecting their hands.
- 1.4. Personnel must always observe proper hand washing and good respiratory hygiene.
- 1.5. Personnel returning to their home must dispose the PPE, change their clothes, and disinfect the clothes and shoes they wore while working outside their home. Bathing is also a requisite of disinfection.
- 1.6. It is the duty of the DAR personnel and the concerned DAR official to ensure that the ARBs, ARBOs, ARCs as well as cooperatives in any DAR activity shall likewise comply with the aforesaid required protocols in the national health emergency
- 2.0. Any DAR personnel who has reason to believe that he or she should not work outside the home by reason of health, or is currently undergoing self quarantine, awaiting the COVID 19 test result or is actually aware that the COVID 19 test result is positive, whether exhibiting symptoms or is asymptomatic ,or is undergoing medication and treatment for COVID 19 or any other ailment, shall inform his or her superior officer about such fact who will exclude the said personnel from the assignment upon verification of the said officer.

Congress passed on 24 March 2020 R.A. No.11469 *(An Act Declaring the Existence of a National Emergency Arising from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID -19) Situation and a National Policy in Connection Therewith, and Authorizing the President of the Republic of the Philippines for a Limited Period and Subject to Restrictions to Exercise Powers Necessary and Proper to Carry Out the Declared National Policy and for Other Purposes.)*. It is otherwise known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act” or, simply, the “Bayanihan Act.”

Please note that that the Bayanihan Law contains penal provisions, thus:

“Section 6. Penalties

‘In addition to acts or omissions already penalized by exiting laws, the following offenses shall be punishable with imprisonment of two (2) months or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00), or both, such imprisonment and fine , at the discretion of the court:

- (a) ‘LGU officials disobeying national government policies or directives in imposing quarantines.*

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'Provided, further, That if the offender is a public official or employee, he shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed herein, suffer perpetual or temporary absolute disqualification from office, as the case may be.'

- 3.0. While the penal provisions of the Bayanihan Act do not impose any direct criminal liability to employees from the DAR for acts and omissions in the performance of duties, the DAR personnel may be liable if he or she becomes a party to any of the prohibited acts or omissions. Thus, the DAR personnel must ensure strict compliance with the following:
- 3.1. There must be no mass gathering of any kind in the course of the application or distribution of the ARB IDs, the application or distribution of the quarantine accreditation pass, the distribution of support services to the ARBs, the ARBOs, the ARCs and cooperatives, or the transport of agricultural products to critical areas affected by the ECQ. While there is no minimum number of individuals to constitute a "mass gathering," it is prudent for the DAR personnel to avoid a gathering of more than five (5) individuals at any given time in one site.
 - 3.2. There must always be physical distancing among individuals who are in a specific location at a given time while in the course of the application or distribution of the ARB IDs, the application or distribution of the quarantine accreditation pass, the distribution of support services to the ARBs, the ARBOs, the ARCs and cooperatives, or the transport of agricultural products to critical areas affected by the ECQ. The DAR official and personnel involved in the activity must ensure that an individual, at any given time, must keep a distance of six feet or two meters from another individual.
 - 3.3. There must be no activity of any kind which will increase the probability that a given uninfected person will come into contact with an infected person which might result to disease transmission.
 - 3.4. There must be no activity which will increase the frequency and/or the closeness of contact between individuals during the period of the national health emergency.

All DAR officials and personnel are requested to increase the level of awareness of all concerned individuals regarding these measures under the national health emergency regardless if there is an enhanced community quarantine in the area.

By the order of the Secretary.



ATTY. LUIS MEINRADO C. PAÑGULAYAN