



Republic of the Philippines
(Republic Act No. 7611)

PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Excerpts from the Minutes of the 267th PCSD Regular Meeting
PCSDS Conference Room, 3/F PCSD Building, Sports Complex Road
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City
31 March 2020

Present:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Gov. Jose Ch. Alvarez, Provincial Governor | Chair |
| 2. Vice Gov. Victorino Dennis M. Socrates, Sangguniang Panlalawigan | Vice Chair |
| 3. Atty. Adelina B. Benavente-Villena, PCSDS | Secretary |
| 4. Hon. Ferdinand P. Zaballa, Liga ng mga Barangay | Member |
| 5. Atty. Jansen Jontila, NGO Representative | Member |
| 6. VADM Rene V Medina, WESCOM Commander | Member |
| 7. Mr. Bobby L. Castro, Private Sector Representative | Member |

Absent:

- | | |
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| 8. Usec. Rodolfo C. Garcia, Usec., DENR | Member |
| 9. Usec. Adoracion M. Navarro, Deputy Director General, NEDA | Member |
| 10. Usec. Ariel T. Cayanan, DA | Member |
| 11. Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron, Puerto Princesa City | Member |
| 12. Mayor Amy Alvarez, League of the Municipal Mayors | Members |

PCSD RESOLUTION NO. 20-716

“PROVIDING FOR THE GUIDELINES IN THE PROCESSING OF PCSD PERMITS, CLEARANCES AND OTHER SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE UNDER PROCLAMATION NO. 929”

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7611, otherwise known as the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan, took effect on 19 June 1992 section 6 of which provides that the SEP shall serve as the framework to guide the government agencies concerned in the formulation of plans, programs and projects affecting the environment and natural resources of Palawan;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the same law provides that the governance, implementation and policy direction of the SEP shall be exercised by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD);

Vision: Palawan, an innovative and dynamic global center of sustainable development

Mission: PCSDS as the driver of environmental conservation and inclusive development in Palawan, a biosphere reserve and science-for-sustainability site, guided by the Strategic Environmental Plan

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WHEREAS, Section 19 of the same Act empowers the Council to formulate plans and policies as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the SEP, as well as to adopt, amend and rescind such rules and regulations and impose penalties therefor, for the effective implementation thereof and to perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary in carrying out its functions, powers, and the provisions of the SEP law;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 922, series of 2020, signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and issued on March 8, 2020, declared a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, the Code Alert System for the pandemic COVID 19 was raised to Code Red Sublevel Two (2) upon the recommendation of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10121 or the Philippine Risk Reduction Management Act of 2010, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has recommended the declaration of a state of calamity throughout the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Duterte, through Proclamation No. 929, series of 2020, declared a state of calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19 and imposed an “Enhanced Community Quarantine” (ECQ) throughout Luzon beginning March 17, 2020 until April 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above-mentioned pronouncements of President Duterte, various government agencies issued their respective guidelines on the implementation of measures to ensure continuous public service;

WHEREAS, in compliance with the memoranda from the Executive Secretary of the Office of the President, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) issued Memorandum Circular No. 20-06 dated March 19, 2020, ensuring unhampered movement of all types of cargoes within, to and from the entire Luzon during ECQ;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the same memoranda from the Executive Secretary, the Department of Agriculture (DA) likewise issued on March 20, 2020 its Memorandum Circular No. 09 ensuring unhampered movement of all cargoes, agriculture and fishery inputs, food products and agribusiness personnel nationwide;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, in order to “assist the Government Agencies in their duty to streamline their processes in delivering government services especially during this emergency period” with a reminder to “adopt a ZERO RED-TAPE POLICY” while ensuring “unhampered delivery of government services”, the Anti-Red Tape Authority issued Advisory No. 01, series of 2020, for the adoption of fast-track measures during the COVID-19 state of calamity by all government offices and agencies in the Executive Department, including Local Government Units (LGUs), Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), and other government instrumentalities;

WHEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises and in compliance with the above-mentioned ARTA’s advisory, and on motion duly seconded, the Council resolves to **ADOPT**, as it is hereby **ADOPTED**, the following guidelines in the processing of permits, clearances, and other similar instruments during the period covered by enhanced community quarantine under Proclamation No. 929:

Section 1. Automatic Emergency Extension of Permits and Clearances. The validity of PCSD-issued permits, clearances, certifications and other similar authorizations that expired or are expiring during the duration of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) are hereby extended until the lifting of the said quarantine in the province of Palawan. This emergency extension of validity covers not only those whose application for renewal or extension may not be filed or processed during the period of ECQ but also those which are pending before any division, section or unit of the PCSD Staff. For this purpose, the PCSD Staff is directed to submit a report to the Council the list of those permits or clearances that are automatically extended pursuant to this section and to inform the permittees concerned of such extension.

This extension does not cover those new applications, which may be filed and processed through “electronic submissions and approvals” detailed in the immediately succeeding section.

Section 2. On-line Application and Processing. The PCSD staff is directed to ensure that proponents or applicants may be able to submit their applications, including the supporting documents, for issuance of PCSD permits, clearances, certifications, and the like, through email and other online platforms. In the same manner, approvals of these applications and reports, except those reserved to the Council, may be made electronically using electronic signatures subject to the observance of adequate security and control mechanism. These online transactions shall be subjected to post-audits by the concerned PCSD staff.

For this purpose, the concerned PCSD staff is further instructed to activate or operationalize at the soonest possible time the online permitting mechanism established under the Biodiversity Resource Access Information System (BRAIN) project.

Section 3. Suspension of Notarization Requirement, Unless Required by Law. Except for those specifically required by law to be notarized, all signed but unnotarized documents that may be submitted, either in person or through email/other online platforms as provided in Section 2 above, to the concerned PCSD staff shall be allowed during the period of ECQ, without prejudice to existing laws or rules penalizing submission of a falsified document, whether notarized or not.

Section 4. Reduced Requirements. During the period of ECQ, incomplete applications, both new and those for renewal, may be processed by the concerned PCSD staff. Within 30 days after the lifting of the ECQ, such lacking requirements should be completed by the applicant or proponent. However, those applications or requests whose approval depends largely on prior ocular inspection or field evaluation/validation shall await the actual inspection as soon as the ECQ in Palawan or in the city/municipality where the project or activity will be undertaken is lifted.

Provided, that if the permit or clearance applied for pertains to agricultural and/or fishery products or any other goods that are covered by the national government’s policy on unhampered trade even during the period of ECQ, the PCSDS inspectors/evaluators may conduct the necessary inspection within the vicinity of their municipality or city of residence and subject to the existing policy on physical distancing and other quarantine measures. The implementation of this inspection under this paragraph is left at the discretion of the PCSDS Executive Director depending on the circumstances of each case.

Section 6. Payment of Fees. All applicants or proponents who are required to pay processing or regulatory fees shall be advised to avail of the payment scheme already established by the PCSD staff with Palawan Pawnshop. In areas where outlet of Palawan Pawnshop is not available, and considering the current restrictions on travel or movement, the payment of fees may be deferred until the ECQ is lifted in Palawan or in the city/municipality where the project or activity will be undertaken.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the above guidelines shall take effect immediately and shall remain in full force until revoked or until the ECQ in Palawan is lifted, whichever comes sooner;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the concerned PCSD Staff, the public, the University of the Philippines - Office of National Administrative Register (UP-ONAR) and other concerned parties for information, guidance and strict compliance.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 31st of March 2020 in Puerto Princesa City, Philippines.

I hereby certify that the above-quoted resolution has been duly adopted by the PCSD on the 31st day of March 2020 in Puerto Princesa City, Philippines.


ATTY. ADELINA B. BENAVENTE-VILLENA
Secretary

ATTESTED BY:


VICTORINO DENNIS M. SOCRATES
Vice-Chair, Presiding Officer