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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

09 November 1999

DEPARTMENT ORDER)
No. 220 *16-10-99*)
Series of 1999)

SUBJECT: Strengthening the Environmental
Impact Assessment Project Office
(EIAPO)

Pursuant to the Presidential Decree No 1586 of 1978, Executive Order No 291 of 12 January 1996, and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of 21 May 1999 between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), this Order hereby provides for the strengthening of the existing **Environmental Impact Assessment Project Office (EIAPO)** of the DPWH. Thus the objective of this Order is to give the EIAPO adequate capability to ensure that all DPWH projects are screened according to the MOA with the DENR and that necessary environmental assessments and mitigation and compensation measures are carried out and monitored.

1. The EIAPO shall act as the environmental service arm of the DPWH and shall provide environmental and social assessment support for foreign and locally funded projects being implemented by the Project Proponents of this Department, i.e. Bureaus, Project Management Offices and Regional/District Offices. In particular, the EIAPO shall have the responsibility of overseeing the preparation, and once approved, the application of the DPWH environment policy. The role of the EIAPO shall cover project planning, preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and post implementation evaluation. The EIAPO shall coordinate closely with the other concerned offices of the DPWH to enable it to provide assistance during various stages of project planning and implementation.

2. The functions of the EIAPO are as follows:

- a) Conduct assessments for environmental, social impact and land acquisition.
- b) Prepare relevant reports such as Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Management Plans (EMP), Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) and other necessary documents.
- c) Facilitate consultation and information dissemination to project affected persons and other relevant stakeholders.
- d) Conduct environmental monitoring; Monitor RAP implementation and conduct post implementation evaluation.
- e) Provide guidance to regional and district level DPWH staff and local authorities in carrying out the above studies, preparation of documents and RAP implementation.
- f) Provide training at regional, district and local level for consultation/participation, RAP implementation, environmental management planning, environmental monitoring, EIA tools and other new techniques.
- g) Maintain and update the existing data bank and Geographical Information System (GIS).
- h) Coordinate environmental concerns with other DPWH offices, Government Agencies, Local Government Units and Non Governmental Organizations.

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3. The EIAPO shall be directly under the Office of the Undersecretary for Technical Services. The EIAPO shall have an appropriate staff headed by a Manager. The staffing pattern shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary.


4. The staff of the EIAPO shall be chosen through an evaluation process of eligible applicants to be conducted by the Administration Manpower Management Services. The current staff, detailed with the EIAPO may apply for the positions under the approved staffing pattern or return to their mother offices.

5. The salaries of the staff with permanent appointments shall continue to be drawn from the budget of their mother offices. The salaries/wages of the non-permanent/contractual staff shall be drawn from the corresponding project budgets. All expenses to the EIAPO directly related to projects e.g. those for EIA preparation and publication, Social Impact Assessment, environmental monitoring, travel, field work, public consultations and information dissemination, shall be charged to the respective project proponents, e.g. PMO-IBRD assisted projects, PMO-ADB assisted projects, and PMO-OECF and others, and must, therefore, be part of the respective project budgets.

6. The preparation for selection of staff for the EIAPO shall commence immediately, and a functional group of staff shall be chosen and in operation by 1 January 2000.

7. The PMOs, Bureaus and Regional and District offices under the DPWH are hereby instructed to provide the EIAPO with adequate and sufficient cooperation and assistance.

This Order shall supersede all previous Department Orders and other issuances or portions thereof inconsistent herewith, and shall take effect immediately.


GREGORIO R. VIGILAR
Secretary