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DEPARTMENT ORDER)

NO. 14)
Series of 2025)
A 1/22/2025

SUBJECT: Delineation of Functions on Accessibility and Building Standards, Workflow Coordination, and Assignment of DPWH Representatives to the NCDA Governing Council

In adherence to the provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 (Accessibility Law), its latest Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and Presidential Decree No. 1096 (National Building Code of the Philippines), this Department Order delineates the responsibilities of the Bureau of Design (BOD), the National Building Code Development Office (NBCDO), and the Planning Service-Environmental and Social Safeguards Division (PS-ESSD). It also outlines the roles of the designated officials for Technical Services and Planning, ensuring efficient implementation, proper coordination, and the promotion of inclusivity and accessibility.

I. Designation of Officials

1. Undersecretary for Technical Services: Shall serve as the Principal Representative to the Governing Board of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) to oversee the Department's compliance with BP 344, its amended IRR, and disability-related standards and programs.
2. Assistant Director, BOD: Shall serve as the Alternate Representative to the NCDA Governing Board in the absence of the Undersecretary for Technical Services.
3. Undersecretary for Planning Service: Shall serve as the Focal Person for Advocacy and Awareness on Disability Affairs, with the responsibility to lead initiatives and programs that promote disability awareness and inclusivity within DPWH and in coordination with external stakeholders. The PS-ESSD shall serve as the implementing arm for this tasking.

II. Delineation of Functions

1. BOD: Shall remain primarily responsible for the design of infrastructure projects, ensuring compliance with accessibility standards under BP 344 and PD 1096. Its specific functions include:
 - a. Integration of accessibility features into all designs for public infrastructure.
 - b. Providing technical assistance to implementing offices and other government agencies regarding accessibility standards.
 - c. Ensuring all design plans comply with BP 344 and PD 1096 standards, including their latest IRRs.
2. NBCDO: As mandated by PD 1096, the NBCDO shall focus on policy, advocacy, and capacity building. Its specific functions include:
 - a. Leading the review, formulation, and updating of policies related to the National Building Code and accessibility standards for buildings under BP 344.
 - b. Conducting capacity-building activities, including technical seminars and workshops on the Accessibility Law and the National Building Code.
 - c. Handling BP 344 cases appealed to the Secretary, originating from decisions, orders, and resolutions issued by the Building Officials.

- d. Monitoring, evaluating, and submitting compliance reports on accessibility requirements for public and private building projects, roads, and bridges, in coordination with the BOD and relevant offices, for auditing purposes in compliance to standards.
 - e. Reviewing technical issues and amendments to accessibility provisions in collaboration with stakeholders.
 - f. Together with the BOD, promoting advocacy and public awareness campaigns to encourage inclusivity in building design and construction.
3. **PS-ESSD:** Shall serve as the advocacy and program development arm for accessibility and social awareness, with the following responsibilities:
- a. Developing and implementing programs and projects to raise awareness of the social impact of disability.
 - b. Advocating for the integration of accessibility and disability-sensitive features into all DPWH programs and projects.
 - c. Conducting public information campaigns and consultations to highlight the importance of inclusive infrastructure.
 - d. Collaborating with the NBCDO and BOD to address accessibility concerns at the programmatic level.

III. Workflow and Coordination of the Undersecretaries

To ensure the seamless implementation of this Order and proper delineation of roles:

1. Undersecretary for Technical Services shall:
 - a. Focus on compliance with accessibility standards under BP 344 and PD 1096 at the technical level.
 - b. Provide oversight for technical evaluations, capacity building, and inter-agency coordination through the NBCDO.
 - c. Coordinate with the Undersecretary for Planning Service for policy alignment and public advocacy efforts.
2. Undersecretary for Planning Service shall:
 - a. Lead the development of advocacy programs and public awareness initiatives on accessibility in coordination with the PS-ESSD.
 - b. Ensure that all advocacy programs and public awareness initiatives align with technical compliance and standards implemented by the BOD and NBCDO.
 - c. Coordinate with the Undersecretary for Technical Services for technical support and feedback to enhance advocacy efforts.

Regular consultations among the aforementioned Undersecretaries shall be held to ensure alignment of technical and advocacy initiatives. All policy matters requiring the approval of the Head of Agency shall be submitted for the Secretary's decision.

This Order shall take effect immediately, and shall supersede all inconsistent issuances, including Special Order No. 185, series of 2024.


MANUEL M. BONOAN
Secretary

Department of Public Works and Highways
Office of the Secretary



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