



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
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November 2, 2015

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2015-127

TO : ALL CITY/ MUNICIPAL MAYORS IN METRO MANILA, DILG-NCR
REGIONAL/CITY DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND ALL OTHERS
CONCERNED

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES/RALLIES
IN PUBLIC PLACES DURING THE 2015 APEC SUMMIT

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In order to ensure public order and safety during the upcoming meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders on November 2015 in Metro Manila, and pursuant to the Department's supervisory power over local government units (LGUs) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), the following guidelines on the above-subject are hereby issued as a, for the strict and faithful observance of all concerned, in accordance with Batas Pambansa (BP) Blg. 880¹:

I. COVERAGE

- a. All public assemblies to be conducted in a public place are covered by the "NO PERMIT, NO RALLY" rule.
- b. A written permit is not required only when:
 - i. The public assembly shall be done or made in a freedom park duly established by law or ordinance or in private property, in which case only the consent of the owner or the one entitled to its legal possession is required; or
 - ii. In the campus of a government-owned and operated educational institution which shall be subject to the rules and regulations of said educational institution.²

¹ AN ACT ENSURING THE FREE EXERCISE BY THE PEOPLE OF THEIR RIGHT PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE AND PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR OTHER PURPOSES; Approved on October 22, 1985.

²Political meetings or rallies held during any election campaign period as provided for by law are not covered by this Act. (Section 4 of BP 880)

- c. The holding of any public assembly by any leader or organizer without having first secured that written permit where a permit is required, or the use of such permit for such purposes **in any place other than that set out** in said permit is prohibited.³

II. AUTHORITY TO GRANT PERMITS

- a. The City/Municipal Mayor or any official acting in his behalf shall grant the application and issue the corresponding permit.
- b. The permit shall be issued, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the public assembly will create a **clear and present danger** to public order, public safety, public convenience, public morals or public health, subject to observance of the proper procedure hereinafter enumerated.⁴
- c. The application shall be acted upon within two (2) working days from the date the application was filed. Otherwise, the permit shall be deemed granted. Applicant shall be informed of such action on the permit within twenty-four (24) hours.⁵
- d. The processing of the application and the remedial actions shall conform to the procedure laid down in Sections 5 and 6 of BP Blg. 880.

III. USE OF ANY PUBLIC HIGHWAY, BOULEVARD, AVENUE, ROAD OR STREET

- a. The City/Municipal Mayor or any official acting in his behalf may, when the use of any public highway, boulevard, avenue, road or street is for **an appreciable length of time, designate the route** thereof which is convenient to the participants **or re-route the vehicular traffic** to another direction so that there will be no serious or undue interference with the free flow of commerce and trade.⁶
- b. TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ANY NATIONAL OR LOCAL ROAD, ALLEY, PARK, OR SQUARE DURING PUBLIC RALLIES UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE⁷
 - i. Such temporary closure of roads may be allowed by the local chief executive concerned by specifying the duration thereof in a written order.
 - ii. The activity to be conducted must be officially recognized or approved by the LGU concerned.
 - iii. Note that such closure must be pursuant to a duly enacted ordinance.

³ Section 13, BP Blg. 880

⁴ Section 6(a), BP Blg. 880

⁵ Section 6 (b) & (d), BP Blg. 880

⁶ Section 7, Id.

⁷ Section 21 of the LGC of 1991

IV. INTERFERENCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The PNP shall at all times be mindful of their duty to keep the peace and provide proper protection to those exercising their right to peaceably assemble and the public in general, and shall not interfere in the holding of a duly conducted public assembly.

The policy of "maximum tolerance"⁸ and respect for human rights shall be strictly observed, and compliance with Sections 9 and 10 of BP Blg. 880 as regards the guidelines on interference is likewise enjoined.

Dispersal of public assemblies/rallies with permit shall be effected in accordance with Section 11 of BP Blg. 880. Those without the requisite permit shall be dispersed peaceably even when no act/s of violence is/are being committed.⁹

V. PROHIBITED ACTS

All concerned are reminded that commission of any of the prohibited acts under Section 13 of BP Blg. 880 shall be punishable by law.

The DILG-NCR Regional, City and Field Officers are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to all LGUs within Metro Manila.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.


MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO 
Secretary 



⁸ "Maximum tolerance" means the highest degree of restraint that the military, police and other peace keeping authorities shall observe during a public assembly or in the dispersal of the same.

⁹ Section 12, BP Blg. 880