



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 2020- 122

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, LOCAL SANGGUNIANs, PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS, BARMM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : SUPPORT OF LGUs TO AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES' ORGANIZATIONS (ARBOs) AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND COMMUNITY QUARANTINE PERIOD

DATE : 17 SEP 2020

1. Background

- 1.1 The COVID-19 pandemic resulted to the imposition of strict quarantines to contain the spread of the disease. A repercussion of this is the disruption of economic activities, loss of livelihood and jobs, and the challenge of meeting Sustainable Development Goal No. 2: Zero Hunger.
- 1.2 The creation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger through the issuance of Executive Order No. 101, s. 2020 has made it a priority of the government to attain zero hunger through a whole-of-government approach; and the sudden impact of COVID-19 has not stopped the government in its efforts in achieving this goal.
- 1.3 As such, in line with meeting this particular SDG even amidst a pandemic, the government has continued the implementation of its Supplementary Feeding Program and has initiated several

social amelioration measures in order to help the poor, including farmers, cope with the pandemic.

- 1.4 For its part, the DILG has issued an Advisory on 4 June 2020 which enjoins local government units (LGUs) to establish ties with Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries' Organizations (ARBOs). Said Advisory encourages LGUs to prioritize purchase of produce from local small farmers, fisherfolks, and cooperatives to use in food packs for distribution in critical areas.
- 1.5 This Memorandum Circular (MC) serves to reiterate the call to support the livelihood of local farmers, fisherfolks, and cooperatives in feeding the Filipino people amidst the pandemic.

2. Legal Bases

- 2.1 Republic Act No. 11321, otherwise known as the "*Sagip Saka Act*";
- 2.2 Presidential Proclamation No. 922, series of 2020, "Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines";
- 2.3 Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 19, Series of 2020;
- 2.4 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Memorandum Circular No. 12, Series of 2020, "Guidelines in the Implementation of the Supplementary Feeding Program during the Community Quarantine Period or Other Similar Emergencies";
- 2.5 DILG Advisory dated 4 June 2020, "Support to Local Small Farmers, Fisherfolks, and Cooperatives amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic and Community Quarantine Period".

3. Policy Content and Guidelines

- 3.1 Section 11 of RA 11321, or the "*Sagip Saka Act*", states "To promote and support farmers and fisherfolk enterprise development, national and **local government** agencies shall **directly purchase agricultural and fishery products from accredited farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives and**

enterprises: *Provided,* That said agricultural and fishery products are necessary in the performance of their respective mandates.”

- 3.2 Section 2 of Presidential Proclamation No. 922, s. 2020 states that “All government agencies and LGUs are hereby enjoined to render full assistance and cooperation and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate response and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the Covid-19 threat.”
- 3.3 IATD-EID Resolution No. 19, s. 2020 recognizes the authority of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to issue quarantine accreditation passes to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) to continue supplying agricultural products to areas placed under community quarantine.
- 3.4 DSWD MC No. 12, s. 2020 states that DSWD Field Offices may collaborate with LGUs as procuring entities for the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) which shall continue during community quarantine and that funds for said program may be downloaded to LGUs. Said MC has also identified ARBOs as one of the associations/organizations from which LGUs can procure produce for the implementation of the SFP. Finally, concerned LGUs should lead the distribution of procured food items to its intended beneficiaries.
- 3.5 Hence, to reiterate the 4 June 2020 DILG Advisory, all LGUs are hereby enjoined to establish ties with ARBOs and prioritize purchase of fresh produce directly from small farmers, fisherfolk, and cooperatives for the distribution of healthy and nutritious food packs during the state of public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.6 Part of ensuring the safety of the people from the virus is to provide them with healthy and nutritious food that will help boost their immune systems and resistance to diseases. It shall also contribute to the livelihood of our small farmers and fisherfolk, and thus furthers our efforts towards food security. As such, this move shall help in feeding our people in critically affected areas while supporting local small agriculture and fisheries stakeholders.

4. Policy Compliance and Monitoring

- 4.1 LGUs shall submit monthly reports to the DILG Regional Offices, or the MILG in the case of BARMM, **through the M/CLGOOs**, of their compliance to this Memorandum Circular which shall include, but not limited to, the complete details of procurement and distribution of produce / food items to target beneficiaries, and the partner ARB/Os from which said purchase/procurement was made.
- 4.2 Moreover, LGUs shall attach all pertinent procurement documents to their monthly reports. M/CLGOOs shall then verify the monthly report and its attachments submitted by the LGUs for accountability and transparency purposes; and report LGU compliance via this link: bit.ly/ARBOtool.
- 4.3 All DILG Regional Directors and the BARMM Minister of Local Government are hereby directed to cause the immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular, and to assist and monitor the LGUs within their respective jurisdictions with regard to ensuring their compliance.

5. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

6. Approving Authority


EDUARDO M. AÑO
Secretary

7. Feedback

For inquiries, you may contact the Bureau of Local Government at telephone no. [8876-3454](tel:8876-3454) loc. [4107](tel:4107) or email at blgd.ladd2018@gmail.com and blgd.gad@gmail.com.

