



Republic of the Philippines  
Presidential Communications Office  
**National Printing Office**  
Diliman, Quezon City



NPO-COM-COP-465-25

**CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION**

April 14, 2025

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT JOINT DILG AND DA, MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 01, Series of 2025, Subject: EXTENSION OF FULL SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY COUNCILS (AFCs) AS PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTAION OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS**

Was published in the Official Gazette, to wit:

VOLUME	NUMBER	PAGE	DATE OF ISSUE
121	15	3393-97	April 14, 2025

And the last issue has been officially released by this office on April 14, 2025.

Fully paid  Partial  Publication:

₱ 10,584.00/150.00 Balance ₱

O. R. 5274283

Date: 3-13-25

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Roy-Lito C. Pablo*  
ROY-LITO C. PABLO  
Acting Chief, Composing Division

02-emma





Date: FEB 25, 2025

**JOINT DILG AND DA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01  
Series of 2025**

**TO : DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
1. ALL DILG REGIONAL/PROVINCIAL/CITY DIRECTORS;  
2. ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS OFFICERS;  
3. BARMM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT;



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1. ALL DA REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS;  
2. MAFAR-BARMM MINISTER;  
3. ALL LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY COUNCIL (AFC) CHAIRPERSONS;

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**  
1. ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS;  
2. ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS;  
3. ALL PUNONG BARANGAYS;  
4. ALL PROVINCIAL/CITY/MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS;  
5. ALL SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN/PANLUNGSOD/BAYAN; AND  
6. ALL CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

**OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : EXTENSION OF FULL SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY COUNCILS (AFCs) AS PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS**

**1. RATIONALE/LEGAL BASES**

- a. Article XIII, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution is explicit: "The right of the people and their organization to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The state shall by law facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms."
- b. Article X, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The Congress shall enact a local government code which shall provide for







Date: FEB 25, 2025

**JOINT DILG AND DA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01**  
Series of 2025

**TO :** DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
1. ALL DILG REGIONAL/PROVINCIAL/CITY DIRECTORS;  
2. ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS OFFICERS;  
3. BARMM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

**OFFICIAL RELEASED**  
Signature: *[Signature]*  
Date: 02-25-25  
Time: 3:25 PM  
RECORDS SECTION  
2024-12-17-018  
2025-02-25-107

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1. ALL DA REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS;  
2. MAFAR-BARMM MINISTER;  
3. ALL LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY COUNCIL (AFC) CHAIRPERSONS;

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS  
1. ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS;  
2. ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS;  
3. ALL PUNONG BARANGAYS;  
4. ALL PROVINCIAL/CITY/MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS;  
5. ALL SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN/PANLUNGSOD/BAYAN; AND  
6. ALL CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

**OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT :** EXTENSION OF FULL SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY COUNCILS (AFCs) AS PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS

**1. RATIONALE/LEGAL BASES**

- a. Article XIII, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution is explicit: "The right of the people and their organization to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The state shall by law facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms."
- b. Article X, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The Congress shall enact a local government code which shall provide for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
**CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**  
for *[Signature]*  
MIA BELLA V. NANON  
Chief, Records Section 2/11/25



a more responsive and accountable local government structure instituted through a system of decentralization xxxx."

- c. Section 2 (a) of R.A. No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that "It is hereby declared the policy of the State that the territorial and political subdivisions of the State shall enjoy genuine and meaningful local autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals. Toward this end, the State shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure instituted through a system of decentralization whereby local government units shall be given more powers, authority, responsibilities, and resources. The process of decentralization shall proceed from the National Government to the local government units."
- d. Section 3 (m) of RA 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, states, "The national government shall ensure that decentralization contributes to the continuing improvement of the performance of local government units and the quality of community life."
- e. Article X, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution, provides that "The President shall provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices, and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region."
- f. As provided for under Section 2 (f) of R.A. No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, "The state shall promote people empowerment by enabling all citizens through direct participation or through their elected, chosen or designated representatives the opportunity to participate in policy formulation and decision making by establishing the appropriate mechanisms in giving them access to information."
- g. Section 5 (g) of Executive Order No. 116, or the Reorganization Act of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, states, "It shall provide the mechanism for the participation of farmers/fishermen and entrepreneurs at all levels of policy-making and plan/program formulation."
- h. The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) is an attached agency serving as the policy advisory and consultative arm of the Department of Agriculture (DA). It promotes and facilitates broad-based participatory development mechanisms and processes in the agriculture and fisheries sectors through its volunteer Consultative Bodies (CBs), which are composed of the National





Agriculture and Fisheries (NAF) Council, National Sectoral Committees, and the Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) at the regional, provincial, city, municipal, district, and barangay levels.

- i. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), as one of the key Departments of the national executive branch of government, by virtue of its mandated powers and functions, shall, among others, establish and prescribe rules, regulations, and issuances, implementing laws on public order and safety, the general supervision over local governments and the promotion of local autonomy and community development and monitoring of compliance thereof.
- j. Section 34 of R.A. No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that "Local government units shall promote the establishment and operation of people's and non-governmental organizations to become active partners in the pursuit of local autonomy."
- k. Section 35 of R.A. No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that "Local government units may enter into joint ventures and such other cooperative arrangements with people's and non-governmental organizations to engage in the delivery of certain basic services, capability-building and livelihood projects, and to develop local enterprises designed to improve productivity and income, diversify agriculture, spur rural industrialization, promote ecological balance, and enhance the economic and social well-being of the people."
- l. Section 36 of R.A. No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that "A local government unit may, through its local chief executive and with the concurrence of the Sanggunian concerned, provide assistance, financial or otherwise, to such people's and nongovernmental organizations for economic, socially-oriented, environmental, or cultural projects to be implemented within its territorial jurisdiction."
- m. Further, Section 3, Paragraph (l) of the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that "The participation of the private sector in local governance, particularly in the delivery of basic services, shall be encouraged to ensure the viability of local autonomy as an alternative strategy for sustainable development".
- n. "Mandanas Ruling" as held in the case of Mandanas vs. Ochoa (G.R. No. 199802, July 03, 2018) which triggered the review of the computation of the national taxes and reiterated and strengthened the concept of devolution of significant national government functions to the local governments, and citing Pimentel vs. Aguirre, the Supreme Court mentioned and discussed "decentralization of administration" whereby *provinces, cities, municipalities and*





*barangays are given decentralized administration to make governance at the local levels more directly responsive and effective. In turn, the economic, political, and social developments of the smaller political units are expected to propel social and economic growth and development.*

- o. The AFCs, as replications of the PCAF at the regional and local levels, shall, among other things, serve as a volunteer policy advisory body of the DA and LGUs, facilitate government and private sector partnership to ensure the success of agricultural and fishery programs, projects, and activities, and act as consultative, integrative, coordinative, and monitoring bodies for local agriculture and fisheries initiatives.
- p. Pursuant to R.A. 8435, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular Nos. 97-271 and 98-200 re: LGU participation in the AFC and representation of the AFCs in the Local Development Councils (LDCs), reiterated by DILG MC No. 2000-63. To further support the operations of the local AFCs, the Department also issued Memorandum Circular No. 2001-121 re: Inclusion of the AFC Budget in the Local Government Unit's Annual Appropriation.
- q. On January 31, 2013, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the DILG signed the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, Series of 2013 re: Extension of Full Support to the Local Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) as Private Sector Partners in the Implementation of Local Development Policies, Plans and Programs and Reiteration of DILG Memorandum Circulars 97-271 and 98-200 re: LGU participation in the AFCs and of the AFCs in the Local Development Councils. Said issuance was reiterated on July 29, 2016, through DA-DILG JMC No. 1, Series of 2016.

## **2. PURPOSE**

This Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) aims to recognize the AFCs as private sector partners in developing the agriculture and fisheries sectors by extending full support and institutionalizing their involvement in participatory local governance through the supervision of the DILG and DA.

## **3. POLICY CONTENT AND GUIDELINES**

In view of the above, the following are hereby directed and/or reiterated:

3.1 Membership/Representation of the *local AFC Chairperson or designated representative* in the Local Development Councils (LDCs) and designation of the Provincial/City/Municipal Agriculturist as the *Co-Chairperson* of the Provincial/City/Municipal AFCs, as mandated under Rule 90.7 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. No. 8435 and as provided for in the DILG Memorandum Circulars 97-271, 98-200 and reiterated in





DILG MC 2000-63, and accreditation of AFCs as per Section 108 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

- Rule 90.7 (IRR of R.A. No. 8435): Effective August 1, 1998, all LDCs of all provinces, *cities*, and municipalities shall include as a regular member the Chairperson or representative of the local AFC. *Provided that:*
  - Rule 90.7.1 The Municipal Agriculturist shall serve as the *Co-Chairperson* of the MAFC, *City Agriculturist shall serve as the Co-Chairperson of the CAFC/HUCAFC/ICCAFC*, and the Provincial Agriculturist shall serve as the *Co-Chairperson* of the PAFC.
  - Rule 90.7.3 The DILG, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, is mandated to monitor the implementation of this provision.
- Section 108 of the Local Government Code of 1991
  - Section 108. Representation of Non-Governmental Organizations. Within sixty (60) days from the start of the organization of local development councils, the nongovernmental organizations shall choose from among themselves their representatives to said councils. The local Sanggunian concerned shall accredit nongovernmental organizations subject to such criteria as may be provided by law.

*\* All italicized words/terms were modified (e.g., Vice Chairperson was changed to Co-Chairperson) or included (e.g., city, City Agriculturist, CAFC/HUCAFC/ICCAFC) to the original provision of the IRR to ensure the representation of all existing AFC network members in the original IRR.*

3.2 Local Government Units may consider recommendations from the AFCs in the budget preparation stage;

3.3 Encourage inclusion of the AFC Annual Operational Budget, which may include but is not limited to support for AFC consultations and other activities, supplies and materials, traveling expenses, allowances, insurance, and training, in the LGU's annual appropriation per Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Code and DILG MC No. 2001-121 with subject inclusion of Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) Budget in the Local Government Unit's Annual Appropriation, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and procedures.

3.4. Participation of the AFCs in the provision of necessary recommendations on local agricultural and fishery plans, programs, and projects and evaluation of beneficiaries as provided for in EO 116 Section 5 (g) "It shall provide the mechanism for the participation of farmers/fishermen and entrepreneurs at all levels of policy-making and plan/programs formulation".



3.5. Designation of a full-time AFC Secretariat-Coordinator at the provincial, city, and municipal levels.

3.6. Encourage the participation of the DILG Provincial/City Directors and Provincial/City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officers (P/C/MLGOOs) in all activities of the AFCs such as, but not limited to:

- Attendance in AFC meetings, consultations, and other activities;
- Providing assistance in the conduct of monitoring of agricultural and fishery programs and projects in their respective areas; and
- Giving advice to the AFCs on matters and issues related to DILG concerns.

#### 4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

##### 4.1 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

- Provide policy direction in the implementation of the policies and guidelines contained in this JMC;
- Facilitate and give advice to the LGUs in the preparation and employment of strategies or measures for the execution of the provisions of this JMC, whenever necessary;
- In coordination with the DA, monitor the implementation of Rule 90.7 of the IRR of R.A. No. 8435 on the membership of the AFCs in the LDCs.
- Facilitate compliance of the LGUs with the provisions set forth in Items 3.1 to 3.4.
- Participate in all activities of the AFCs, including, but not limited to, attendance at AFC meetings, consultations, and other activities; provide assistance in the conduct of monitoring of agricultural and fishery programs and projects in their respective areas; and advise the AFCs on matters and issues related to DILG concerns.

##### 4.2 Department of Agriculture

4.2.1 The Department, through the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), shall:

- Provide technical assistance to the DILG and LGUs on AFC engagement through facilitating consultations that will create an enabling environment for multi-sectoral participation to raise people's awareness of development programs and projects and solicit recommendations for their improvement;
- Provide and prepare information, education, and communication materials promoting the AFCs;
- Provide assistance to the AFCs in monitoring and obtaining feedback on the status of implementation and compliance of the LGUs with this JMC; and





- Elevate to the DA and DILG concerns relative to the implementation of this JMC.

4.3. Local Government Units

As the primary implementers, the Local Government Units are encouraged to observe compliance with the provisions stipulated in Items 3.1-3.6 of this JMC.

**5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any section or provisions of this JMC is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not thereby affected shall remain valid and in effect.

**6. REPEALING CLAUSE**

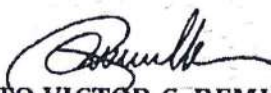
All provisions of existing executive issuances, circulars, guidelines, and orders inconsistent with this joint Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**


This JMC shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, and its filing with the University of the Philippine Law Center - Office of the National Administrative Register.

All DA Regional Executive Directors, MAFAR-BARMM Minister, all DILG Regional Directors, and BARMM Minister of Local Government are hereby directed to disseminate this issuance and see to it that the intent of such is accordingly complied with.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION, GUIDANCE, AND COMPLIANCE.**

  
JUANITO VICTOR C. REMULLA  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior and Local  
Government



  
FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

