

**[ DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 98-43, June 24, 1998 ]**

**EXEMPTION OF COMMUNITY BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS FROM THE PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES**

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 263 dated July 19, 1995 adopted Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) as the national strategy towards the sustainable development of the country's forestland resources;

WHEREAS, under the CBFM Program, organized People's Organizations (POs) are given equitable access to the utilization of the forest resources while at the same time given the responsibility of managing and protecting their forest areas;

WHEREAS, this strategy is towards the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the upland dwellers and the sustainable management of the forests;

WHEREAS, under the CBFM Program, the POs are given the privilege of utilizing the forest resources in their areas provided the sustainable utilization of the same is contained in their long term Community Resource Management Framework Plans and Annual Work Plans and provided further that they comply with all the necessary forestry rules and regulations including the payment of forest charges and administrative fees;

WHEREAS, the POs, being the poorest of the poor are having difficulty in the payment of forest charges and administrative fees resulting in their inability to take advantage of the opportunities provided, or resulting in unprofitable operations;

WHEREAS, under Section 64 of PD 705, otherwise known as the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, the DENR Secretary is empowered to set and prescribed the payment of administrative fees;

WHEREAS, the DENR is mandated under EO 263 to assist the POs in implementing the CBFM Program;

NOW THEREFORE, premises considered, the POs of CBFM projects are hereby exempted from the payment of following administrative fees:

- A. Application Fee
- B. License/Permit Fee
- C. Service Fee
- D. Rental Fee
- E. Others (e.g. Oath Fee, appeal fee and authentication fee)

This Order shall take effect fifteen days following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon submission to the UP Law Center.