

**[ DAR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03, s. 1997,  
February 07, 1997 ]**

**RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE AWARD OF LANDS OF  
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN WHICH ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR), TO LANDLESS  
WAR VETERANS AND VETERANS OF MILITARY CAMPAIGNS,  
THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES AND ORPHANS, AFP AND INP/PNP  
RETIREEES, RETURNEES, SURRENDEREES, AGRICULTURE  
GRADUATES OF AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS AND OTHER SIMILAR  
BENEFICIARIES**

**I. PREFATORY STATEMENT**

Section 7 of Article XVI of the Constitution and Section 40 (6) of Republic Act No. 6657 state that landless war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans, retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Integrated National Police (INP, now PNP), returnees, surrenderers, and similar beneficiaries, shall be considered in the disposition of agricultural lands of the public domain. Members of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs) or their surviving spouses and orphans, who were recruited by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) but who were disbanded are likewise included in the disposition of agricultural lands of the public domain subject of this Order.

Section 40 (7) of R.A. No. 6657 provides that landless graduates of agricultural schools shall be assisted by the government, through the DAR, in their desire to own and till agricultural lands.

Section 4 (B) of Executive Order No. 129-A provides that "it is the responsibility of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to administer and dispose all cultivable portions of the public domain declared as alienable and disposable for agricultural purposes transferred to it by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources."

Executive Order (E.O.) Nos. 448 and 506 amending E.O. No. 407 accelerate the acquisition and distribution of all lands of the public domain suitable for agriculture by including within the coverage of E.O. No. 407 all government reservations or portions thereof, which are suitable for agriculture and no longer actually, directly and exclusively used or necessary for the purpose for which they were reserved, as determined by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in coordination with the government agency or instrumentality in whose favor the reservation was established. These lands shall be segregated from the reservation and transferred to the DAR for distribution to qualified beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Furthermore, Section 51 of Republic Act No. 3844, as amended, provides that "it is the responsibility of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to administer and dispose of agricultural lands of the public domain under the custody and administration of the (former) National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA) and the Economic Development Corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines prior to the approval of this Amendatory Act and such other public agricultural lands as may thereafter be reserved by the President of the Philippines or by law for resettlement and sale, in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth under the said law."

In order to effectively implement the above provisions, the following rules and regulations are hereby prescribed.

## **II. POLICY STATEMENT**

A. The award of lands to the beneficiaries covered by this Order is in pursuance with the DAR's commitment to promote peace and development through the implementation of policies that shall improve the quality of life of the people who have been involved in the peace process and the defense of the country's sovereignty.

B. Agricultural lands of the public domain under the jurisdiction of the DAR which are still available for disposition, after the allocation to the actual Farmer Beneficiary (FB) occupants and to those who have not been accommodated in privately owned agricultural lands, shall be distributed to the CARP beneficiaries as enunciated in Section 40 (6) and (7) of R.A. No. 6657 and subject of this administrative order.

C. Distribution of agricultural lands of the public domain shall be in accord with the provisions of Section II-C of the Joint DAR-DENR Memorandum Circular No. 09, Series of 1995.

D. The aggregate area to be awarded to a qualified beneficiary under the subject provisions of R.A. No. 6657 shall not exceed three (3) hectares.

E. Beneficiaries under these guidelines shall receive the necessary support services from the DAR and other CARP implementing agencies.

F. The grant of agricultural lands of the public domain requires that the beneficiary shall enter and work upon, improve and cultivate the land personally.

G. CARP beneficiaries are qualified to be awardees of CARP covered lands of the public domain listed in Section III hereof in any place where the same is available without prejudice however to qualified landless residents thereat.

## **III. COVERAGE**

This Administrative Order shall cover the award of lands of the public domain to landless war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, CAFGUs or their surviving spouses and orphans, retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Integrated National Police (INP, now PNP), returnees, surrenderees, agriculture graduates of agricultural schools and similar beneficiaries.

*Such lands of the public domain include:*

- a. Agricultural lands within proclaimed DAR Settlement Projects;
- b. Alienable and disposable lands of the public domain turned over by the DENR to the DAR pursuant to E.O. No. 129-A; and
- c. Lands previously proclaimed for various government Departments, agencies and instrumentalities and subsequently turned over by the latter to the DAR for distribution under the CARP pursuant to E.O. No. 448.

#### **IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

A. *Reservation Areas* — refer to tracts of land of the public domain proclaimed by the President or by Act of Congress for the use of the government or any of its branches, subdivisions, or instrumentalities or inhabitants thereof, for settlement or resettlement uses or purposes.

B. *Public Domain Lands* — are public lands declared as alienable and disposable for agricultural purposes, transferred to the DAR by the DENR and other concerned government agencies for administration and disposition to the ARBs.

C. *War Veterans* — refer to any person or persons who served in the regularly constituted air, land or naval service or arms, or in such non-regularly organized military units in the Philippines during World War II and whose services with such units are duly recognized by the Republic of the Philippines or by the Government of the United States.

*Surviving Spouse* — refers to the wife or husband of a deceased veteran or CAFGU who has the right to be awarded agricultural lands of the public domain which are covered by the CARP.

*Orphan* — refers to the surviving child of a veteran or CAFGU and his/her spouse, both deceased, who has the right to be awarded agricultural lands of the public domain which are covered by the CARP.

D. *AFP retirees* — are soldiers/officers of either the Air Force, Navy or Army who have retired from the service.

E. *INP/PNP retirees* — are officers and enlisted personnel of the police forces, i.e., PC, INP (now PNP) who have retired from the service.

F. *Returnees and Surrenderes* — are rebels who have surrendered or returned to the fold of the law in line with the amnesty program of the government.

G. *Agriculture Graduates* — refer to persons who have graduated from agricultural schools duly accredited/recognized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS).

H. *Veterans of Military Campaigns* — refer to persons who served and participated in the campaigns conducted by the military for the maintenance of peace and order in