



MC No. 29, 1997

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

**TO : ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED
AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND STATE COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES**

**SUBJECT : WATER CONSERVATION IN VIEW OF THE ADVERSE
EFFECTS OF EL NIÑO**

The Presidential Task Force on Water Resources Development and Management recommended to President Fidel Ramos to declare a state of calamity in sixty one (61) areas, including Metro Manila, due to the declining water levels in dams and rivers due to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon. The areas covered are as follows: Metro Manila, Benguet, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan, Western part of Nueva Viscaya, Cagayan Valley, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Mindoro Occidental, Northern Palawan, Rizal, Romblon, Aurora, Marinduque, Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Iloilo, Guimaras, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Southern portion of Negros Oriental, Northern Cebu, Biliran, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Northern Samar, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Basilan, Misamis Oriental, Camiguin, Misamis Occidental, Bukidnon, South Cotabato, General Santos, Davao del Norte, Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

The El Niño phenomenon is a recurring global climate abnormality that causes heavy rains or strong winds in some areas and drought in others. This condition brought about by the invasion of warm surface waters from the western equatorial Pacific Basin to the eastern equatorial region can prevail for more than a year.

Irregularities in rainfall and temperatures have crippling effects in economy on a global scale. Food supply may be seriously handicapped because of low crop production. Water shortage due to these climatic abnormalities will affect more people. These include environmental effects that could go as far as desert-like conditions, salt water intrusion in drinking water, high risk of forests fires and more importantly, a shortage in domestic water supply.

In view of the adverse effects of El Niño, all concerned should adopt strategies and observe practices that will conserve the use of water not only in offices but also in every household.

Some examples we can cite are the use of a water scooper (tabo) instead of shower while taking a bath and/or the use of recycled water, for watering plants, flushing/washing of toilets, storing of water in drums and others.

There are a number of other little things that we all can do to contribute to water conservation. Let us be concerned and help minimize wastage. That is the least we can share.

In support, therefore, of the programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Presidential Task Force on Water Resources Development and Management, I enjoin all government employees to comply and observe national water conservation measures.


CORAZON ALINA G. DE LEON
Chairman

1 December 1997

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