

Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NUMBER 2020-

Subject: MANDATORY TREE PLANTING

WHEREAS, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) was created by Executive Order No. 202 on June 19, 1987, as administrative agency with quasi-judicial powers, and is the existing franchising and regulatory body for land transportation today;

WHEREAS, Under Executive Order No. 202, the Board has the power and function to coordinate and cooperate with other government agencies and entities concerned with any aspect involving public land transportation services with the end in view of effecting continuing improvement of such services;

WHEREAS, the business of common carrier is impressed with public interest and concern which holds such a peculiar relation to the public interest that there is superinduced upon it the right of public regulation when private properties are affected with public interest, hence, they cease to be *juris privati* only. When, therefore, one devotes his property to a use in which the public has an interest, he, in effect grants to the public an interest in that use, and must submit to the control by the public for the common good, to the extent of the interest he has thus created (*Kilusang Mayo Uno v. Jesus B. Garcia, et al., G.R. No. 115381*, *December 23, 1994*).

WHEREAS, the successive natural disasters that our country have experience this year alone calls for drastic measures on a holistic approach, and coordinated efforts of all government entities and private interests alike, to help save our mother nature, and prevent or at the very least mitigate the impact of future natural calamities;

WHEREAS, the fundamental legal right to a balanced and healthful ecology which is incorporated in the Constitution carries with it the duty to refrain from impairing the environment and implies, among many other things, the judicious management and conservation of the country's forests and natural resources. WHEREAS, every Filipinos have the responsibility to the next generation to preserve the rhythm and harmony for the full enjoyment of a balanced and healthful ecology, and this Board is duty bound to comply with that responsibility;

WHEREAS, this Board, as part of our responsibility to conserve and protect our environment, has agreed to initiate efforts by undertaking to plant trees in the entire Philippines, and thereafter require our stakeholders, who have similar responsibility to our environment and to the next generation, which includes all of our descendants and future ascendants, to plant trees, as a pre-condition for issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience;

NOW THEREFORE, this Board hereby UNDERTAKES to initially plant fifty thousand (50,000) trees across the country through the Central Office and its Regional Franchising and Regulatory Offices (RFROs). To properly implement the same, the Board hereby adopts the following guidelines:

- 1. For the initial implementation, this Circular shall cover:
 - a. All applicants for issuance of NEW CPC with at least ten (10) units
 - b. All corporations and cooperatives (regardless of number of units) applying for extension of validity of CPC

After the initial implementation, ALL applicants with at least ten (10) units shall be covered by this issuance.

- 2. Those covered by this issuance shall be required to plant one (1) tree for every unit applied for.
- 3. Operators shall coordinate with the concerned local government unit (where they hold business) or the concerned DENR Office on the area allowed for tree-planting activity, and shall secure proof of compliance therewith from the LGU or DENR. Said proof and corresponding photographs shall be attached to their application for issuance/extension of CPC. Failure to attach this requirement shall cause non-acceptance of their application.

The initial implementation for this Program shall be for a period of three (3) months counted from effectivity hereof. Thereafter, all applicants with at least ten (10) units (individuals or juridical entities) shall be required to comply herewith.

All issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded and amended accordingly.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect starting **01 December 2020** following its publication in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation. Let three (3) copies hereof be filed with the UP Law Center – Office of National Administrative Registrar (ONAR).

SO ORDERED.

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Adopted and Approved Through Teleconference on 19th November 2020, Quezon City, Philippines

ON LEAVE ATTY. MARTIN B. DELGRA III

Chairman

ENGR. RONALDO F CORPUS

Board Member

P/Col. JOEL C. PERNITO (Ret.)

Board Member

Attested by:

COL. RENWICK K. RUTAQUIO (Ret.)

OIC-Executive Director