



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS  
**CENTRAL OFFICE**  
Manila



091.7 DPWH

09.02.2024

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**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM** )

**CIRCULAR NO.**  
**Series of 2024**

71

9/2/2024

**FOR / TO :**

- SENIOR UNDERSECRETARY**
- UNDERSECRETARIES**
- ASSISTANT SECRETARIES**
- REGIONAL DIRECTORS**
- BUREAU DIRECTORS**
- SERVICE DIRECTORS**
- HEADS OF UPMOs**
- DISTRICT ENGINEERS**
- HEADS OF ATTACHED AGENCIES**
- OTHERS CONCERNED**
- This Department

For information and guidance, attached is a certified copy of **Memorandum Circular No. 162** dated August 16, 2024 signed by Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin, with the subject: **"STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 162 (S.2008) PROVIDING GUIDELINES ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO NORTH BORNEO (SABAH)"**.

A copy of the said Memorandum Circular may also be downloaded from the DPWH website: <http://dpwhweb>. If an office cannot access the DPWH website, a hard copy may be obtained from the Records Management Division, HRAS, upon request.

For dissemination to all concerned.

  
**Atty. MICHAEL S. VILAFRANCA, CESO III**  
Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Support Services

Encl: As stated

cc: Office of the Secretary

10.1.4 FJED/MCV



**Office of the President**  
**Malacañang**



**MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**TO : ALL HEADS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS**

**SUBJECT : STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 162 (S. 2008) PROVIDING GUIDELINES ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO NORTH BORNEO (SABAH)**

**DATE : AUG 16 2024**

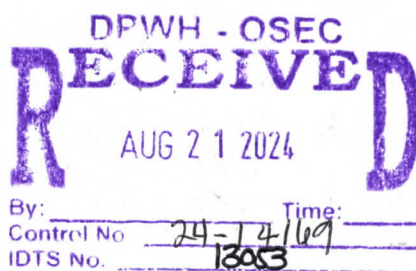
In the interest of safeguarding the country's historical and legal right over North Borneo (Sabah), all national government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, are hereby reminded to strictly comply with Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 162 (s. 2008) entitled, "Guidelines on Matters Pertaining to North Borneo (Sabah)."

Moreover, the Department of the Interior and Local Government is hereby directed to circulate MC No. 162 to all local government units for information and guidance.

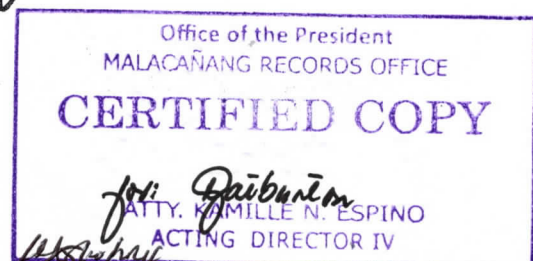
For reference, attached is a copy of MC No. 162.

For information and strict compliance.

By authority of the President:



*[Signature]*  
**LUCAS P. BERSAMIN**



**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 162**

**GUIDELINES ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO NORTH BORNEO (SABAH)**

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of Article 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution on National Territory, the Philippines has historical and legal right over certain parts of North Borneo (Sabah);

**WHEREAS**, it is in the national interest to safeguard the country's historical and legal right in North Borneo (Sabah);

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines believes in the peaceful resolution of disputes with neighboring countries as provided under the same Constitution, which expressly states that the Philippines adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for guidelines with regard to activities, acts or statements in relation to North Borneo (Sabah) for the protection of the said rights;

**WHEREFORE**, the following guidelines are hereby prescribed:

**Section 1.** No Department, agency, or instrumentality of the Philippine Government shall make any act or statement expressing or implying, directly or indirectly, any recognition of a foreign state's sovereignty over North Borneo (Sabah) or non-recognition of Philippine title or historical and legal rights to the same.

**Section 2.** Any official activity, act or statement relating to North Borneo (Sabah) or which may have bearing on the Philippine claim to said territory shall be carried out only with the clearance of or after consultations with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

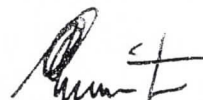
**Section 3.** Reference to North Borneo (Sabah) in official documents should not include its being part of a larger national/federal territory. These documents include, but are not limited to, the following: Philippine passports, agreement, agreed minutes, joint communiqués, record of discussions, and similar documents.

**Section 4.** Philippine government officials visiting North Borneo (Sabah) shall provide the DFA with a report on their travel thereto.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 20th day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

By authority of the President:



**EDUARDO R. ERMITA**  
Executive Secretary