

GUIDELINES IN THE INTERRUPTION OF PERIODS IN THE PROCESSES OF THE POLLUTION ADJUDICATION BOARD (PAB) PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 30, SERIES OF 2020

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 situation, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines, and Proclamation No. 929 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines for a period of six (6) months;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Resolutions issued by the Inter- Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, various Memoranda from the Executive Secretary were issued dated 13 March 2020, 16 March 2020, 18 March 2020 and 07 April 2020 imposing a Community Quarantine on certain areas from 15 March 2020 until 15 May 2020.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4(z) of RA No. 11469, otherwise known as the "Bayanihan to Heal As One Act", the President issued Administrative Order No. 30, "Directing all Government Offices to Formulate and Issue Guidelines on the Interruption of Periods for the Filing of Documents, Payment of Taxes, Charges and other Fees, and Cancellation of Proceedings Before Their Respective Offices, and on the Movement of Timelines for the Release of Benefits";

WHEREFORE, in view of all the foregoing and pursuant to its powers and functions under Section 19 of Executive Order No. 192, Series of 1987, the Pollution Adjudication Board **RESOLVES, as it is hereby RESOLVED,** to adopt the following guidelines in the interruption of periods in its processes, to wit:

1. These guidelines shall apply only to proceedings for cases pending before the Board for violations of Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, in areas where the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) was declared, covering the period starting from 15 March 2020 up to 15 May 2020, or until the date of the same is lifted.

2. Reglementary periods for the commencement of actions, filing of pleadings, appearances, motions, notices and all other papers with the PAB as provided under PAB Resolution 1-2010 are hereby interrupted during the period of ECQ. The remaining period shall continue to run immediately after the same are lifted in the region, province, city, municipality, and/or area concerned, or unless sooner declared by the PAB.

3. The proceedings before the EMB Regional Offices affected by the ECQ, as well as that of the Board thru its Secretariat are hereby interrupted and will be subject to rescheduling after the lifting of the ECQ.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions above, proceedings for the following shall not be interrupted or cancelled:

a. Where there is prima facie evidence that the emission or discharge of pollutants constitutes an immediate threat to life, public health, safety or welfare, or to animal or plant life, or greatly exceeds the allowable DENR Standards, such as deliberations for affirmation of interim Cease and

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Desist Orders issued by the Regional Office, or issuance of Cease and Desist Orders, as the case may be.

b. Where there are utmost urgent cases which are necessary to enable the Board to act expeditiously on matters affecting the current public health emergency, such as Urgent Motions for Temporary Lifting Order, among others.

5. In cases falling in Section 4 above, the Board may convene thru video conference and approve Orders and/ or Resolutions thereof.

6. The Order of the Board shall become final and executory fifteen (15) days after the receipt of a copy thereof by the party adversely affected, unless a motion for reconsideration is filed or an appeal is perfected within said period.

7. Payment of fines imposed by the Board which have become final and executory fifteen (15) days from receipt of the Order, including installment payments approved by the Board which should have been due during the period of ECQ shall be interrupted until the lifting of the ECQ.

8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless sooner modified or revoked.

Approved this 28th day of April 2020 in Quezon City, Philippines.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT By authority of the Secretary: June SIGNED _ 05 May 2020 DATE **RODOLFO C. GARCIA** USEC Presiding Officer USEC AS R. LEONES USEC JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA Member ember USEC. ERNESTO D. ADOBO, JR. **DIR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO** Member Member **MR. DEMETRIO** IGNACIO, JR. L Member Member Attested by: ATTY./JANICE C./REGOSO **ŤERESITA A. PERALTA** ENGR Board Segretary and Legal Counsel Deputy Board Secretary