



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 A. Francisco Gold Condominium II EDSA cor. Mapagmahal St.
 Diliman, Quezon City

3/4/05

March 4, 2005

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. : 2005-21
TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS,
 MUNICIPAL MAYORS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS
 AND OTHERS CONCERNED
SUBJECT : OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY OF LOCAL WATER
 DISTRICTS

A report has reached this Department that some local officials continue to exercise control and supervision over local water districts, ignoring the mandates of law and public policy.

Relative to this, all concerned local authorities are hereby reminded that:

1. Water districts, once formed, are not under the jurisdiction of any political subdivision (Section 6, Presidential Decree No. 198, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 88-15 dated March 1, 1988 and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 97-78 dated April 14, 1997);
2. Water districts are autonomous agencies independent of local governments. It should be best that they are allowed to operate without the least hindrance and interference from the local officials but with maximum support and assistance (Section 6, Presidential Decree No. 198, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 88-15 dated March 1, 1988 and Memorandum Circular No. 97-78 dated April 14, 1997); and
3. While the Local Government Code provides for the legal basis relative to the devolution powers, functions and attributes granted by law to the Local Water Utilities Administration to local water districts, should they opt to exercise such powers, functions and attributes, there is nothing in the Code that indicates that it has repealed the pertinent provisions of Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended (Sections 530 and 534, Local Government Code and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 97-78 dated April 14, 1997).

Please be guided accordingly.

OSEC
 OUSA
 OUSLG - 3/4
 OASXHD
 OASPT
 PLGS - 3/8

NCR - 3/4
 Reg. 14-A
 14-B - 3/4
 RDS - 3/9/05

Angelo T. Reyes
ANGELO T. REYES
 Secretary



Handwritten notes and signatures in the bottom right corner.