

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 2016-146

**TO ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS,
DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

SUBJECT OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS

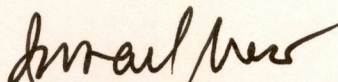

DATE October 18, 2016

It has been brought to our attention that some local government officials continue to exercise control and supervision over local water districts despite various DILG issuances reminding local authorities of the operational autonomy of the local water districts.

In view thereof and in the interest of public order and service, all concerned local authorities are hereby reminded that

1. Water Districts once formed, are subject to provisions of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 198, as amended and not under the jurisdiction of any political subdivision (Section 6 of PD 198, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 88-15 dated 01 March 1988, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 97-78 dated April 14, 1997 and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2005-21 dated March 4, 2005);
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 a maximum support and assistance (Section 6, PD 198, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 88-15 dated 01 March 1988, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 97-78 dated April 14, 1997 and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2005-21 dated March 4, 2005); 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they opt to exercise such powers, functions and attributes, there is nothing in the Code that indicates that it has repealed the pertinent provisions of Presidential Decree No. 198, as amended (Sections 530 and 534 of Local Government Code (RA 7160), DILG Memorandum Circular No. 97-78 dated April 14, 1997 and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2005-21 dated March 4, 2005).

Please be guided accordingly.


ISMAEL D. SUENO
Secretary 



"Matino, Mahusay, Maaasahan"

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