



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City

<http://www.dilg.gov.ph>



ENJOINING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO STRICTLY OBSERVE AND COMPLY WITH THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ENTERING, STAYING AND/OR PLAYING AT GAMBLING CASINOS

Memorandum Circular No. 2017-20
February 2, 2017

1.0 Background

- 1.1. On September 20, 2016, the Office of the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary, issued Memorandum Circular No. 06 *Enjoining All Government Officials and Employees to Strictly Observe and Comply with the Prohibition Against Going to Gambling Casinos*.
- 1.2. Said Circular is issued in view of the President's Directive to Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to strictly implement and prohibit all government officials from entering casinos and to appropriately address the negative effect on the public perception of government service as a whole that the mere entry or presence of government officials and employees in a gambling casino shall be considered as conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, unless the same was in the performance of official duties and functions.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum Circular is to ensure that all local government officials and employees will fully observe and comply with the prohibition against entering, staying and/or playing at gambling casinos in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1869 and OP Memorandum Circular No. 06 series of 2016.

3.0 Legal Compliance

- 3.1. All concerned are hereby reminded of Section 2 of Republic Act No. 6713 known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees which provides that it is the policy of the State to promote a high standard of ethics in public service and that government personnel shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence, and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, lead modest lives, and uphold public interest over personal interest.
- 3.2. Presidential Decree No. 1869 *Consolidating and Amending Presidential Decree Nos. 1076-A, 1067-B, 1067-C, 1399 and 1632*, relative to the Franchise and Powers of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation to enable the

Government to regulate and centralize thru an appropriate institution all games of chance authorized by existing franchise or permitted by law.

- 3.3. OP Memorandum Circular No. 06 dated September 20, 2016, *Enjoining All Government Officials and Employees to Strictly Observe and Comply with the Prohibition Against Going to Gambling Casinos.*
- 3.4. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) provides that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare, and shall ensure and support, among other things the improvement of public morals.
- 3.5. PAGCOR Circular RG 16-003 dated July 25, 2016 with the subject *Limited Access to Gaming Establishments of Immediate Relatives of Government Officials*, which specifically states that immediate relatives (spouses, children and parents) of government officials are not allowed to play in gaming establishments around the Philippines.

4.0 Scope/Coverage

All Provincial Governors, Vice Governors, City and Municipal Mayors, City and Municipal Vice Mayors, Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Panlungsod, Bayan and Barangay, Punong Barangays, All Local Government Personnel and Employees, DILG Regional Directors, ARMM Regional Governor, and all others concerned.

5.0 Policy Content and Guidelines

- 5.1. In line with the President's directive to strictly implement and prohibit all government officials from entering casinos to immediately address the negative effect on the public perception of government service, a policy was issued by the Office of the President through Memorandum Circular No. 6 dated September 20, 2016, which considers mere entry or presence of government officials and employees in a gambling casino as conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, unless the same was in the performance of official duties and functions.
- 5.2. In support to the above-mentioned directive and pursuant to the DILG's mandate of general supervision over local governments, all LG officials and employees are hereby directed to strictly observe and comply with the prohibition against entering, staying and/or playing in gambling casinos.
- 5.3. All DILG Regional Directors and the ARMM Regional Governor are hereby directed to immediately cause the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to concerned local government units within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

6.0 Penal Provisions

Non-compliance to the provisions of this Memorandum Circular shall be dealt with in accordance with applicable Civil Service Rules and Regulations, and other pertinent laws.

7.0 References

- 7.1. Republic Act No. 6713 dated February 20, 1989 entitled, *An Act Establishing a Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, To Uphold the Time-Honored Principle of Public Office Being a Public Trust, Granting Incentives and Rewards for Exemplary Service, Enumerating Prohibited Acts and Transactions and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof and For Other Purposes.*
- 7.2. OP Memorandum Circular No, 06 dated September 20, 2016.
- 7.3. Presidential Decree No. 1869 dated July 11, 1983.
- 7.4. PAGCOR RG16-003 dated July 25, 2016.

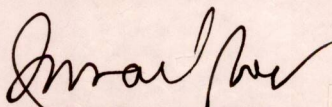
8.0 Repealing Clause

All DILG Memorandum Circulars, directives, orders or other related issuances inconsistent herewith in part or in full, are hereby modified, revoked, or repealed accordingly.

9.0 Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

10.0 Approving Authority


ISMAEL D. SUENO
Secretary



11.0 Feedback

For related queries, kindly contact the Bureau of Local Government Supervision at Tel Nos. (02) 9289181 or 9250351, or at email address at pacts.blgs@gmail.com.