



**DENR Administrative Order**  
No. 2018 - 04

**JAN 26 2018**

**Subject: Designation of Dupong, Matlang and Merida Water Quality Management Area and Creation of its Governing Board**

Pursuant to Section 5 of R.A. 9275 otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2005-10 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A 9275, and DENR Memorandum Circular 2009-15 or Procedural Manual for the Designation of Water Quality Management Areas, and considering its critical importance to municipalities of Isabel, Merida and Palompon in the Province of Leyte, the **Dupong, Matlang and Merida Water Quality Management Area in the province of Leyte is hereby designated.**

**SECTION 1. Objectives and Policies.** It is the policy of the State to pursue economic growth in a manner consistent with the protection, preservation, and revival of the quality of our fresh, brackish and marine waters. Pursuant to this policy statement, this Order aims at protecting and improving the water quality of Dupong, Matlang and Merida Water Quality Management Area to make it a sustainable resource for the people of Leyte, consistent with the following water quality management objectives:

- a) To improve the water quality of Dupong, Matlang and Merida Water Quality Management Area and thereby contribute to the enhancement in the Province of Leyte as a source of water irrigation and other agricultural uses and serve the best interest of the communities and stakeholders;
- b) To formulate a WQMA program which recognizes that water quality management issues are inherently related or cannot be detached from the concerns on water sources, ecological protection, water supply, public health and quality of life;
- c) To encourage, support, and mobilize civil society organizations and other sectors such as the academe and businesses engaged in environment-related activities, in efforts to organize and educate people in addressing pertinent environmental issues and problems in the WQMA;
- d) To promote inter-LGU and stakeholder collaboration and cooperation through coordinated efforts in protecting and sustaining acceptable quality of water in the Dupong, Matlang and Merida Water Quality Management Area; and
- e) To harness locally available resources to support rehabilitation and protection efforts of the Dupong, Matlang and Merida Water Quality Management Area.

**SECTION 2. Coverage.** The Dupong, Matlang and Merida WQMA shall cover its natural or man-made tributaries that are within the WQMA boundary including the land embraced by the hydrologic unit identified through various maps. The WQMA has a total land area of 30,138 hectares.

