



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
**BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY**  
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

Juco Building, 144 Mindanao Avenue, Project 8, Quezon City  
Trunklines: (+632) 927-6383; 453-1196  
Email Address: director@bjmp.gov.ph Website: www.bjmp.gov.ph



**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR :** **JOEL S SUPERFICIAL**  
Jail Senior Superintendent  
Officer-in-Charge, Directorate for Operations

**SUBJECT :** **COMMENT re: Establishment and Regulation of Jail Commissary**

**DATE :** 10 October 2016

- References: a. Request for Comment of the DO, dated 06 October 2016;  
b. Presidential Decree No. 875, otherwise known as Amounts to Finance the Operation and Maintenance of a Commissary and Px System for the Integrated National Police Personnel; and  
c. Inmate Information Handbook Federal Bureau of Prisons, Springfield Missouri.

2. Commissary in jails has long been in effect and practice according to the situational needs of every facility, however, it has been utilized not to deter the proliferation of contrabands but merely for proprietary activity. Hence, this draft policy has been crafted for the primary purpose of preventing the proliferation of contrabands in jails.

3. This Office, in line with the thrust and program of our Chief, BJMP in the offensive campaign against illegal drugs, is very much inclined and willing to support this proposed policy.

4. On the other hand, after thorough research, the LSO finds no exact provision in law pertaining to commissary in jails. Hence, it is the humble submission of this Office to include as secondary reference, Presidential Decree 875, where at cursory review it is the only law that refers to the law on commissary.

5. Nonetheless, foreign laws provides an exact provision on rules on commissary in jails in which we can adopt as suppletory to this draft rules on commissary, where it provides:

*"An inmate identification card (inmate ID card) matching your personal appearance for positive identification is required for all Commissary transactions, including ward delivery sales, unless you are not allowed to have your ID card in your possession. It is your responsibility to maintain a current photo on your ID card, and you are to carry your inmate ID card at all times."*<sup>1</sup>

6. Moreover, in our previous meeting we have agreed to dispense with the actual cash being held by our clients in order to eliminate the cash being circulated inside the jail that can be easily and readily be used to bribe our jail officers. In its absence, a card like the "beep card" with cash value can be utilized. Hence, we humbly suggest and

<sup>1</sup> Inmate Information Handbook Federal Bureau of Prisons, Springfield Missouri.

Received by JDI Astudillo  
10-11-16

request to adopt the same in collaboration with the Information and Communication Technology Service of the Bureau.

7. And lastly, the spending limitation shall not include the use of telephone system inside the jails because it may cost beyond what is allowed under our present jail settings, specifically so, among foreigners using long distance rates.

8. Respectfully recommended.

  
PAULINO H MORENO JR  
Jail Senior Superintendent  
Chief, Legal Service Office