



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
MIMAROPA Region  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**  
**PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE – RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**  
National Highway, Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan  
Contact No.: 0917-160-4920  
Email: [cenroquezonpal@gmail.com](mailto:cenroquezonpal@gmail.com) / [rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com)

July 12, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : The Regional Executive Director  
DENR MIMAROPA Region, 1515 L&S Building  
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

**FROM** : SVEMS Pablo L. Cruz  
DENR CENRO Quezon Narra Station Office

**SUBJECT** : **CONSTRUCTION OF A HOTEL WITHIN A MANGROVE AREA  
IN BARANGAY CORONG-CORONG, EL NIDO PALAWAN AND  
ALLEGED CONNIVANCE OF DENR PERSONNEL**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your show cause memorandum dated March 22, 2021 which I received via registered mail today, July 9, 2021 re: construction of a hotel by a certain Israel Gomez within a mangrove area in Barangay Corong-corong, El Nido, Palawan with alleged connivance of DENR personnel.

The above case being referred herewith had stemmed from the email complaint dated April 1, 2018 by a certain Alex Bergante which prompted the subsequent dispatchment of an investigation team by virtue of Regional Special Order No. 193 dated April 6, 2018.

In compliance with your directive to submit my comment/counter affidavit (under oath) on the case at hand, may I respectfully submit the following premises for your consideration:

1. Foremost, please be informed that before my assumption as OIC, CENR Officer of Taytay, Palawan on April 3, 2017, the entirety of the hotel building being mentioned in the above email complaint including the cottages and pathways constructed within the parcels of mangrove forest in the aforementioned barangay were already completed and existing.
2. Further informing that preparatory to the issuance of Notices to Vacate (NTV), the conduct of inventory of forest occupants within the timberland barangays of El Nido, especially in the four urban barangays (i.e. Corong-corong, Buena suerte, Maligaya and Masagana) has been implemented. On the list of occupants submitted, Israel Gomez is one among the identified numerous illegal forest occupants (Records of the inventory report can be accessed in the records office of CENRO Taytay).
3. The filing of cases, however, has been delayed because almost all the CENRO Taytay CDS and MES personnel with reinforcement personnel from the PENRO and from the other CENROs of Palawan are preoccupied in the demolition jobs of illegal structures within the easement areas in the said four urban barangays during the period as we



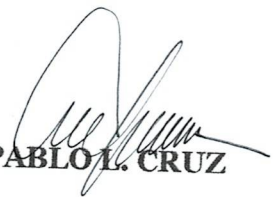
have to closely monitor and attend to the needs of the created multi-agency demolition team.

4. Post demolition works/activities and clearing operations had been continuing until my medical operation in December, 2018 and replacement as the OIC, CENRO of Taytay in January 11, 2019.

Moreover, I have not been remiss of my job more particularly in the institution of sanctions against Israel Gomez et.al but just feel short of time to comply with the office order.

Enclosed is a copy of the received show cause memorandum order.

For consideration.

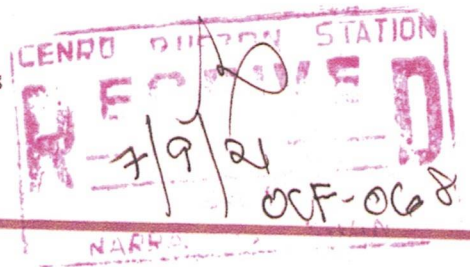
  
PABLO L. CRUZ

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
on **JUL 13 2021** at **NARRA, PALAWAN**



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Book No. 283  
Series 204

  
ATTY. NIXON T. RAMIREZ  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
Until December 31, 2021  
NP. No. 2020-022  
IBP No. 001976 / 12-10-20 / PALAWAN  
PTR No. 2672434 / 12-07-20 / PALAWAN  
MCLE No. VI-0021559/03-28-2019  
Valid until April 14, 2022  
Bar Roll No. 48818



SHOW CAUSE MEMORANDUM

MAR 12 2021

**TO :** PABLO L. CRUZ  
Supervising Ecosystems Management Specialist  
CENRO Narra, Palawan

**FROM :** The Regional Executive Director

**SUBJECT :** CONSTRUCTION OF A HOTEL WITHIN A MANGROVE AREA  
IN BARANGAY CORONG-CORONG, EL NIDO, PALAWAN AND  
ALLEGED CONNIVANCE OF DENR PERSONNEL

This refers to the Complaint thru email dated April 1, 2018 of Alex Bergante which was made the subject of an investigation by a team created by virtue of Regional Special Order No. 193 dated April 6, 2018. The pertinent findings state that:

- *"Monitor the compliance of Mr. Gomez as directed in the Notice to Vacate dated April 3, 2018, directing him to remove the structure/s built and vacate the area occupied immediately.*

*The on-going construction of the six (6) storey building and the operation of the eight (8) cottages be stopped pending approval of appropriate tenurial instrument.*

- *As previously instructed, the CENRO Taytay should file the appropriate charges in court against Israel Gomez for constructing a six-storey building hotel, a restaurant, a concrete board walk and eight (8) cottages within a classified forestland in violation of PD 705, as amended, and in relation to R.A. 7586 as the area is within ENTMRPA;*

- *The CENR Officers of Taytay, Palawan covering the years 2012 up to the present, be required to explain in writing why no administrative sanctions should be imposed against them for failure to file the necessary complaint for the unabated violation of PD 705, as amended, in relation to RA 7586, despite previous instructions to do so.* (Emphasis supplied)

In the observance of due process, you are hereby directed to submit within five (5) days from receipt hereof your written explanation (comment/counter-affidavit) under oath why no administrative case should be filed against you. Failure to submit the said document/s shall be considered a waiver thereof and the resolution will be based on the available documents at hand.

For strict compliance.

  
MARIA LOURDES G. FERRER, CESO III

cc:

Mr. Alex Bergante  
<alex.bergante@yahoo.com>

Presidential Complaint Center  
Malacañang Complex, J.P. Laurel Street  
San Miguel, Manila

PENRO Palawan

CENRO Taytay, Palawan

 Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources  
MIMAROPA Region



Doc ID: 43143

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