



July 13, 2021

Hon. Ma. Virginia N. De Vera
Mayor
MUNICIPALITY OF CULION
Province of Palawan

Dear **Mayor De Vera**,

We are writing this letter in response to a complaint received by this Office that a new dumpsite was found to be operating at Sitio Carigmalan, Brgy. Baldat.

Result of the investigation revealed that a new dumpsite was found to be operating at the location stated in the complaint. While this Office understands that the current situation brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic limits and hinders several programs of the Municipality, proper solid waste management should remain as a priority to ensure that the health and safety of the people as well as the surrounding environment is protected.

As such, you are again notified and sternly warned that the operation of the dumpsite is violative of Section 37 of RA 9003 and the operation thereof must immediately cease. Wastes disposed must be removed in the reported area within 72 hours. Nonetheless, Residuals Containment Area (RCA) to manage collected residual wastes has been allowed in the meantime. This Office would like to reiterate that an RCA is a structure that will act as a transition facility while the municipality is simultaneously rehabilitating the dumpsite and preparing for the establishment of a longer-term disposal facility such as a Sanitary Landfill (SLF). Please be reminded that the RCA is only a temporary storage and must only accept residual wastes. It should be constructed in such a way that the stored residual wastes will not be exposed to direct sunlight or rain.

Meanwhile, the Municipality must also raise efforts for the marketability of the collected recyclable wastes (e.g. possible collaboration with different recyclers in the Philippines). This situation has also been endorsed to the EMB Central Office for other possible solutions they may offer to avoid recyclable items being stockpiled for too long in MRFs.

This Office would like to also recommend to your Municipality to look into the possibility of availing co-processing services from cement plants. Last March 20, 2021, this Office has sent out communication letters to all LGUs within the MIMAROPA Region detailing the co-processing technology being offered by CEMEX Holdings Philippines¹. Moreover, on the recently concluded webinar of the EMB MIMAROPA Region, “Rethinking Plastic Consumption: An Overview on the Efforts to Beat Plastic Pollution” last June 30, 2021, where all LGUs within the MIMAROPA region were invited to participate, this Office invited Holcim Philippines, Inc. to also discuss their co-processing technology².

¹ Copy of the March 20, 2021 letter

² Copy of the June 30, 2021 presentation



Please be informed that the identified dumpsite will be subjected for periodic monitoring to ensure compliance. Should field validation confirm that operation of the dumpsite persists, this Office will be constrained to seek remedies available under the law to ensure compliance.

Once again, this Office is hopeful that compliance with the implementation of the different provisions of the RA 9003 can be achieved through the collaborative effort of the DENR, EMB and the Municipal Government of Culion.

Should you have further queries, you may communicate with us through our official email address: embmimaropa@emb.gov.ph .

Very truly yours,


ATTY. MICHAEL DRAKE P. MATIAS
Regional Director

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*The Regional Executive Director
DENR – MIMAROPA Region*

*The Director
Environmental Management Bureau*

*The Hon. Governor
Province of Palawan*



R4B-2021-007866