



DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
OFFICE: DOT MIMAROPA REGION

Meeting Report					
Subject/Title: MIMAROPA Regional Tourism Committee (MRTC) 1st Qtr. Meeting					
Date	March 29, 2021	Time Started	2:00 pm	Time Finished	6:30 pm
Location/ Venue	Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Application		Project Officer	-	
<p>Attendees:</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RD Christopher V. Morales – DOT / MRTC Chairperson 2. RD Maria Lourdes Ferrer– DENR 3. RD Mario Baquilod – DOH 4. Engr. Nestor Dimalanta – TIEZA 5. Ms. Jobelle Cruzado – NEDA 6. Ms. Jinky Mendoza – PNP 7. Ms. Ivy Diane Piramide – DILG 8. Ms. Cheryl Martinez – DILG 9. Ms. Rose Escalada– DPWH 10. Ms. Olive Kaye Garcia – DPWH 11. Ms. Charlotte Pizares – DOST 12. Ms. Sonia De Leon – DSWD 13. Ms. Ma. Isabel Castillo – Mindoro Occidental 14. Ms. Kim Velasquez – Mindoro Oriental 15. Mr. Gerardo Jamilla – Marinduque 16. Ms. Maribel Buñi – Palawan 17. Mr. Demetrio Alvior – Puerto Princesa City 18. Mr. Rodne Galicha – Private Sector Representative <p>Secretariat</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Gladys Quesea 2. Ms. Yolanda Cabigao 3. Ms. Faye Angeli Reyes 4. Mr. Marc Ramiro Ortiz Luis 5. Ms. Abigail Cruz <p style="text-align: center;">67% of MRTC member agencies were present during the meeting. (16 out of 24)</p>					
Summary of Points Discussed					

<p>Opening Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asec. Christopher Morales, highlighted on his opening message that the tourism industry has come to a very challenging situation with the alarming surge of positive cases. It hinders the tourism industry recovery especially to areas which are planning to reopen. • He also mentioned that with the given period of the IATF to implement ECQ and fast vaccination programs, hopefully, the tourism industry will recover and surpass the situation. • RD Morales also highlighted the agenda of the MRTC Meeting to wit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Update on COVID19 in MIMAROPA ➤ Status of Cash-for-Work Program allotted for Tourism Workers from Bayanihan Act 2 ➤ Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) for 2021 ➤ Status of TIEZA Board-Approved Projects and Ongoing • Moreover, Asec. Morales together with DENR MIMAROPA agreed to start a joint meeting with Regional Ecotourism Committee (REC) for a more permanent and structural harmonization starting the Second Quarter in June. This is to apply a holistic approach to address all the issues and concerns since the majority of discussion is under tourism • Ms. Gladys Quesea then presented updates on the loan assistance under the CARES Program of Small Business Corporation (SB Corp). • As of March 25, 2021, out of the 41 approved loans, 31 of which were released. Palawan has 22 loans with a total approved amount of P7.5 million, Mindoro Oriental with 15 loans totaling to an approved amount of P2.8 million, Mindoro Occidental with 2 loans amounting to P324 thousand, and Romblon with 2 loans with an approved amount of P131 thousand.
<p>Updates on COVID-19</p> <p>a. Confirmed Cases in MIMAROPA and Status of Health Care System</p> <p>b. Updates on the Bayanihan Act 2 budget allotted for the procurement of COVID testing equipment and infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RD Baquilod presented the Cumulative total of Covid cases in MIMAROPA with a total of 3,100 and 245 of those are identified as active cases, as of March 27, 2021. 2,510 are local cases which means that the transmission happened within the region, whereas the 590 cases were imported and transmitted outside the MIMAROPA provinces. • The distribution of cases by province and status projected that Oriental Mindoro has the highest active cases with a total of 1,576. 59% of the cases within the region are mild cases and 33% are asymptomatic. RD Baquilod also presented the cases' distribution by morbidity week wherein 89% of the total cases have fully recovered. • RD Baquilod also discussed the breakdown of isolated/quarantined active cases in the region. The Home Quarantine cases are to be transferred to the Temporary

	<p>Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMH) by reason of it was stated from the guidelines that all confirmed cases must be facility-based or hospital-based. TTMH is also used by patients with probable case or with improving status to avoid overcrowding of hospitals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each province will receive P10,000,000.00 from the Bayanihan Act 2 budget. RD Baquilod mentioned that they already signed the agreement however they are still waiting for the revisions of Program of Works (POW) and Detailed Architecture and Engineering Drawings (DAED) from the Provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Romblon and Palawan. He also guaranteed that the budget was already reviewed by the Central Office. • As for the Molecular Lab and Swabbing Facility of LGU Hospitals in Tourist Destination Areas: The equipment lists for El Nido Community Hospital and Coron District Hospital are with for approval status and the Certificate of Availability of Funds (CAF) was already sent out to the Province of Palawan for the start of bidding process and construction. RD Baquilod clarified that the P 5,000,000.00 equipment cost will be used solely for the laboratory. Asec. Morales requested, if it's possible, to expedite the distribution of equipment cost since Palawan has existing hospitals already. • The Province of Oriental Mindoro has already an existing and functional laboratory in Puerto Galera. The Governor wants to transfer the laboratory to Mindoro Oriental Provincial Hospital which is located in the Municipality of Roxas. RD Baquilod mentioned that they are just waiting for the revisions of POW and DAED and the list of equipment for them to start the process. And in total there are now five functional laboratories existing in the region of MIMAROPA • Ms. Jobelle Cruzado asked RD Baquilod if the hospitals in Oriental Mindoro are with full capacity as what she read on the news. He answered that he mentioned when discussing the Health Care Utilization Rate for the whole region, only 30% of the allocated beds are utilized. Nonetheless, they will investigate further about the Home Quarantine record because of the sudden increase. • Ms. Quesea asked when will the patients from Home Quarantine be transferred to the isolation facilities/hospitals. RD Baquilod mentioned that it has been a concern especially with Oriental Mindoro. Situation arrangement is very difficult and they don't have an exact date as to when they could transfer the patients. • Asec. Morales stated that DOT can fund isolation facilities and they have been reaching out to El Nido and Coron for a proposal/request. He asked if there are existing standard
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	<p>infrastructure for TTMH from DOH. RD Baquilod answered that there are standards since PhilHealth accreditation is also needed for reimbursement. DPWH also offered assistance to the provinces to construct the facilities however only a few availed it.</p>
<p>Status of Cash-for-Work Program allotted for Tourism Workers from Bayanihan Act 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the presentation of DOH, Asec. Morales presented the DOT DOLE Cash Assistance Summary of Paid and Approved for Disbursement which is based on DOLE report as of March 15, 2021. 31,236 workers availed the financial assistance which is more than 50% of the target constructed from the allotted funds. Majority of the workers came from the Provinces of Palawan and Oriental Mindoro. • Ms. Kim Velasquez from Oriental Mindoro asked if the campaign will stop once the target is reached or will it still continue until June even if the applicants surpass the count. Asec. Morales answered, they will proceed to whichever is earlier. He also mentioned that they are targeting to end the campaign until May but the fund will be available until June. The Congress and DOLE will be responsible if the funding will continue after June however, they are proposing a Bayanihan Act 3 which does not include specific funds for the tourism industry workers. • Asec. Morales encourages the other LGUs to accept and acquire more applicants from the other Tourist Support Services to give cash assistance. He suggested to have them apply per batch so that DOLE can accommodate them quickly.
<p>Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) for 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engr. Olive Garcia from DPWH presented the TRIP Projects based on the General Appropriations Act. Majority are multi-layer projects and just a continuation of the building process. The total number of projects is 46 with a cost of P 649,548.00. Due to the pandemic, delays happened which resulted of two projects from 2016 and one from 2020 are still ongoing. • DOT received a letter from Calamianes Association of Tourism Enterprises (CATE) with regards to no consultation happened between DPWH and DENR concerning the building of the bridge connecting Culion and Coron. Ms. Rose Escalada of DPWH, said that the Feasibility Study is still ongoing as well as the implementation of the project. She specified that the project is on its first stage which is the road opening from Bintuan to Lusong Island. • Asec. Morales suggested to give up the project and transfer the funds to Bayanihan Act 3 because there has been a huge impact to DOT and the stakeholders from its repeating issue. RD Ferrer said that they will check for the ECC of the project before issuing the Show Cause Order. • At the end of the discussion, Ms. Cruzado reiterated that the process must be followed before implementation because

	<p>the Feasibility Study is needed to use as a guide and reference for the project. Meeting half-way is not an option since disturbance of the environment and ecosystem is possible from this project. As for the resolution, the letter of CATE will be endorsed to the Regional Project Monitoring Committee of DPWH for a problem-solving session.</p>
<p>Status of TIEZA Board-Approved Projects and Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engr. Nestor Domalanta presented the status of ongoing and suspended infrastructure projects in the region. It consists of 6 ongoing and 19 suspended due to the pandemic and absence of funds. • Rehabilitation of Public Restroom and Water Supply System in Torrijos, Marinduque project is on its 88%. The proponent requested for release of the last tranche of funds. Puerto Galera's Sewerage and Waste Water Facility and Boardwalk contractor has already mobilized the project and DPWH also requested for the release of remaining balance for a total of P 250,000,000.00. • The Construction of San Jose Boardwalk in Occidental Mindoro is a multi-layer project. Phase I is already on its 47% as of February 2021 and Phase II is for procurement stage. • Tourist Assistance Center in Alimanguan, San Vicente, Palawan is completed while the Port Barton TEZ was terminated due to noncompliance of the LGU on the site. Lastly, the provincial government requested an inspection on April 16-19, 2021 for the Ranger Station in Tubbataha Reef project. • Mr. Demetrio Alvior of Puerto Princesa City asked about the probability of continuance of the Tagkawayan Beach Tourism Development project and the status of funds for the design in Sabang Park, Puerto Pincesa. Engr. Domalanta stated that it will depend on the tourist arrivals and the generated income from the tourism industry. And as for the Sabang Park, land ownership should be established first to make sure that it is a government property. • Ms. Cruzado was concerned about how the Mandanas Case Ruling will affect the implementation of TIEZA's projects, especially to the LGU proposals. Engr. Domalanta stated that the law might be full in its full effect next year and it was stipulated that financial assistance will only be given to LGUs belonging to 5th and 6th districts as far as Tourism Infrastructure Development is concerned.
<p>Other Matters</p> <p>Mandanas Case Ruling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Cruzado and Ms. Quesea asked Ms. Escalada of DPWH if they are already informed by their Central Office with regards to which projects are chosen for devolution including the TRIPC to LGUs. The DPWH is already including the Mandanas Case Ruling in the proposals which are forwarded to DILG. Ms. Escalada reassured that they

	<p>could help impart the standards of DPWH that the LGUs should adapt when it comes to planning DOT projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDC Resolution was approved and once the EO is signed, NEDA is responsible to conduct a regional forum for the full devolution from the Mandanas Case Ruling. All MIMAROPA stakeholders, LGUs, and RLAs will be invited.
Next Steps/Remarks	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DOT MIMAROPA will endorse the letter from CATE regarding the concerns raised for the Coron-Culion bridge construction to NEDA MIMAROPA, Regional Project Monitoring Committee, for a problem-solving session. 2. DOT and DENR will have a harmonize committee for ecotourism concerns to harmonize and apply a holistic approach to address all the issues and concerns since the majority of discussion is under tourism and environment 	

Prepared by: MRTC Secretariat