



10 November 2021

Mr. JOEL CARVAJAL

Complainant

joelcarval070378@gmail.com

Dear **Sir Carvajal**:

Isang makakalikasang araw!

This letter pertains to your complaint posted via the comment section on our official Facebook page (EMB MIMAROPA) on 22 October 2021 at 1:23AM relative to the apparent cutting of coconut trees located at White Beach, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

Please be informed that the issue of tree cutting is not within the expertise and jurisdiction of this Office. However, we would like to inform you that an immediate investigation was still conducted on 28 October 2021 by personnel of this Office in coordination with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

The following are the findings and observations on the area:

1. The cutting of coconut trees along the coastal area of White Beach, San Isidro, Puerto Galera was done on 22 October 2021 and is located at 13°30'17" N and 120°54'7" E under the WGS 1984 Geographic Coordinate System;
2. According to MENRO Staff Nimfa R. Emam, the said activity was part of the Construction of the Sewerage and Wastewater Facility and Boardwalk funded by the Department of Tourism/Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA). Further adding that the cutting of coconut trees has a "Permit to Cut Coconut Trees" issued by the Philippine Coconut Authority on 19 February 2021 (See attached document). The said project was under the Marcbilt Construction Inc./Efren Ramirez Construction and General Services Corp., a contractor of DPWH Region IV-B;
3. Based on the issued permit, there is a total of seventy-four (74) coconut trees to be cut at the area. However, the contractor did not conduct information dissemination to the residents, prompting questions on the nature of the activity from individuals including Mr. Carvajal; and
4. The project (Construction of the Sewerage and Wastewater Facility and Boardwalk) has a pending application for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) to this Office.

Since the project has been implemented without an ECC from this Office, a Notice of Violation against the project for violating Section 4 of Presidential Decree 1586 otherwise known as the "Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System" which states that "*no person, partnership or corporation shall undertake or operate any environmentally critical project or*

operate in an environmentally critical area without first securing an Environmental Compliance Certificate”.

Copies of the mentioned documents are attached herewith for your ready reference.

We hope that we have been able to provide clarification on the matter that you have raised and that we have guided you accordingly.

Sincerely,



JOE AMIL M. SALINO
Regional Director

Copy Furnished:

The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA

PEMU Oriental Mindoro
PENRO Compound, Brgy. Suqui, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro



R4B-2021-013901