



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Region IV- MIMAROPA
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Barangay III (Poblacion), Roxas, Palawan
Contact No. 09171606578 / 09175028647
Email address: cenroroxaspalawan@denr.gov.ph

November 10, 2021

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The PENRO
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

FROM : The CENRO
Roxas Palawan

SUBJECT : **REPORT ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL SMALL-SCALE
QUARRY IN NEW AGUTAYA SAN VICENTE, PALAWAN**

Respectfully endorsing in the memorandum report dated 08 November 2021 regarding the above-cited subject.

Attached is a copy of the report mentioned above.

For your information and record.

Ronnie B. Gandeza
RONIE B. GANDEZA
OIC – CENRO

Cc: **The Regional Director**
Mines and Geosciences Bureau – MIMAROPA Region

The Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment Natural Resources – MIMAROPA Region

DENR-CENRO ROXAS
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November 08, 2021

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The CENR Officer
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Roxas, Palawan

FROM : The Undersigned

SUBJECT : **REPORT ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL SMALL-SCALE QUARRY IN NEW AGUTAYA SAN VICENTE, PALAWAN**



Background Information

Resident Bengie Bacosta complained about the rampant illegal quarrying in their area. Accordingly, former CENRO-Roxas embedded personnel Mr. Lister Siannen and Chief Marces Lasangen conducted an Information Education Campaign way back in 2020.

In relation to the concern of Kagawad Leo P. Laurente to the ongoing illegal sand and gravel quarry in Inanding and Little Baguio River, the undersigned with coordination with Menro San Vicente, an eight-man team was assembled to investigate the matter at hand.

Purpose and Scope

This fieldwork aims to validate the veracity of the complaint and to recommend necessary actions to address the issue. The field investigation includes an ocular inspection of the area.

Prior to the investigation, the team made a courtesy call with Barangay Kagawad Leo P. Laurente. The purpose of the investigation was discussed during the meeting.

Findings and Observation

1. Based on the list of existing valid permit holders in the province provided by the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board, no permit holders exist in Brgy. New Agutaya, San Vicente.
2. During the discussion with Kagawad Laurente, he stated that illegal extraction continued to persist despite hosting IEC by the previous MGB embedded personnel.
3. No actual extraction / quarrying operation were observed along Inanding River. However, mounds of sand and gravel and tools utilized for making hollow blocks were noticed on the property of Mr. Naph Pangilinan (Figure 1 and 2). When asked about if he has a permit to extract the sand and gravel, he insisted that it's his right not to disclose this information. He also stated that his operation on his property ceased when the pandemic began.
4. According to Evangeline Solit some residents extract gravels to reduce the risk of flooding and overflowing in their area, but she admitted that some residents are selling sacked gravels as a source of income.
5. The team also inspected near-by hollow-blocks facilities and asked them to present their delivery receipts. Owners Mrs. Marivel Adier and Mrs. Noralyn Yayen was able to comply and presented valid delivery receipts. The undersigned reminded the retailers to only purchase from legitimate permit holders to avoid conflict with the environmental law
6. During the investigation in Little Baguio River, the team immediately noticed pile of sacks filled with sand (Figure 4). Deep extraction holes along the river are also visible (Figure 5). No actual operation during the investigation was observed.
7. Several slope failures along the river were noticed (Figure). Indicating compromised stability and high susceptibility to erosion.

Comments and Recommendations.

1. Based on the field findings and the information gathered regarding the subject matter, the extraction of sand and gravel in Inanding River and Little Baguio without Mining Perits from the Provincial Mining regulatory Board is deemed illegal and therefore guilty of committing **Theft of Minerals** pursuant to **Section 103 of RA No. 7942**, which provides:

"Any person extracting minerals and disposing the same without a mining agreement, lease, permit, license, or steals minerals or ores or the products thereof from mines or mills or processing plants shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned from six (6) months to six (6) years or pay a fine from Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) to Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the appropriate court. In addition, he shall be liable to pay damages and compensation for the minerals removed, extracted, and disposed of."

A **Cease and Desist Order** must be issued to the concerned constituents of Mrs. Norlita C. Zabalo, Punong Barangay of Barangay New Agutaya.

2. Individual or a Corporation may apply for a clearance for dredging in mitigation for flooding and for commercial material extraction securing MPPs by the DENR-MGB, for the processing and disposition of dredged materials upon clearance by the DPWH.
3. Barangay officials should be aware of the environmental crimes being committed within their jurisdiction. Accordingly, strict implementation of environmental laws must be incessantly observed.
4. Strengthen monitoring in the area by PMRB Roxas is recommended.

For the CENRO's consideration and further instruction.



DOMINIK L. ECHANO

Science Research Specialist I

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Figure 1. Mounds of sand and Gravel in Mr. Pangilinan's property



Figure 2. Devices used for making Hollow-Blocks in Mr. Pangilinan's Property



Figure 3. Sacks of Sand and Gravel along Inanding River



Figure 4. Sacks of Sand and Gravel along Little Baguio River



Figure 5. Extraction holes located near Little Baguio River



Figure 6. Slope Failure along Little Baguio River