



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
MIMAROPA Region
Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
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Telfax No. (048) 434-8791/433-5638

November 23, 2021

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region

FROM : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Office

SUBJECT : INVESTIGATION REPORT AND UPDATES ON THE
ALLEGED ON-GOING WIDENING OF THE PROPOSED
CORON-CULION BRIDGE IN BARANGAY BINTUAN
CORON, PALAWAN

Respectfully forwarded is the memorandum dated November 18, 2021 from CENRO, Coron, Palawan


It pertains to the investigation conducted regarding the complaint letter of Atty Grizelda Mayo-Anda, ELAC Director for violation of environmental laws. The contractor of the road widening NEWINGTON BUILDERS, that connects the proposed Coron-Culion Bridge to the national highway did not secure proper permits from DENR.

In view of the findings in the investigation, the team recommends for the following

1. DENR EMB-MIMAROPA to issue a Notice of Violation for operating and starting the project without an approved ECC in violation of PD 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment
2. DENR MIMAROPA to issue a Notice of violation for clearing and cutting the affected trees without a valid tree cutting permit in violation of Section 77, PD 705 as amended
3. Letter to DPWH to require their contractor secure proper permit before the start of Project implementation and;

Attached are geo-tagged pictures for ready reference.

For information and consideration.


ERIBERTO B. SAÑOS CESE

Copy Furnished :
Enforcement Division DENR MIMAROPA
<enforcement,mimaropa@gmail.com>
CENRO, Coron, Palawan cenrocoronpalawan@denr.gov.ph
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NDC MES Doc No 2021-11421



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

November 23, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
DENR CENRO, Coron, Palawan


FROM : The Provincial Environment
and Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **ROAD WIDENING ACTIVITIES IN BARANGAY BINTUAN,
CORON, PALAWAN**

We acknowledge receipt of your memorandum dated November 18, 2021. The same was forwarded to the Regional Office per PENRO Memorandum dated November 23, 2021. We also sent a letter to Atty Grizelda Mayo-Anda informing her about the result of your investigation as well as the recommended actions.

You are hereby advised to conduct an inventory of damaged trees affected by the road construction and road widening done by Newington Builders. Gather complete evidences including documentation necessary for filing of criminal complaint for violation of Section 77 of PD 705 as amended.

For guidance and compliance.


ERIBERTO B. SAÑOS CESE

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NDC/MES Doc No. 2021-11421



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

November 23, 2021

ATTY. GRIZELDA MAYO-ANDA

Executive Director, Environmental Legal Assistance Center
Carlos P. Sayang Compound, Mitra Road, Brgy. Sta. Monica
Puerto Princesa City 5300 Palawan

Dear Atty. Mayo-Anda,

This pertains to your letter dated November 11, 2021. The matter was referred to CENRO Coron for their investigation.

Per report submitted, the on-going road widening is part of the Coron-Culion Bridge Project of the DPWH. Allegedly a Notice to Proceed was issued by DPWH to Newington Builders (contractor) for the three (3) kilometers road widening that will link the Bintuan-Lusong Island-Marily Island in Culion up to mainland Culion.

Then DPWH Regional Director Ms. Yolanda Tangco sent a letter request dated December 16, 2020 to DENR-CENRO Coron requesting to conduct an inventory of trees to be affected by the road widening.

On January 12-13, 2021 the inventory was conducted and a letter dated January 15, 2021 was sent to DPWH informing them of the result of the inventory and advised them to submit the complete requirements for the issuance of a Tree Cutting Permit.

It is unfortunate that the contractor started its ground mobilization and opening and clearing of the road sometime between the second and third week of March 2021 without securing the necessary permits from concerned government offices.

On March 31, 2021 the team from DENR CENRO and EMB embedded personnel again conducted an investigation in compliance to the instruction of the Regional Office.

The project was stopped but NEWINGTON BUILDERS resumed its operation on the last week of October 2021. Newington Builders insist that a Notice to proceed was issued by DPWH but was not able to present a copy to the team. According to Engr. Bryan Balcarcel (the in-charge), the Notice to Proceed is kept in their main Office.


Currently CENRO Coron has taken the following actions;

1. Sent a letter to DPWH and the contractor to cease and desist its operation until all the necessary permits were secured such as ECC, Tree Cutting Permit.
2. Submitted a report to the Regional Office with a recommendation for the issuance of:
 - a. Notice of Violation by the Regional Director of EMB for not securing an ECC prior to the start of the project in violation of PD 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment
 - b. Issuance of Notice of Violation by the Regional Executive Director of DENR MIMAROPA for clearing and cutting naturally growing trees without an approve tree Cutting Permit in violation of Section 77 of PD 705 as amended.

We also gave a memorandum to CENRO Coron to inventory the affected trees which were cut and assess the damages for filing of a criminal complaint for violation of Section 77, PD 705 as amended.

Thank you for remaining a partner in protecting our environment.

Very truly yours,


ERIBERTO B. SANOS CESE
Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer