



September 22, 2021

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director

THRU : The Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services

FROM : The OIC-PENR Officer

SUBJECT : **LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPLAINT CENTER (PCC) RE: MR. PEDRITO M. NEPOMUCENO SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL INTERCESSION ON THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE TURTLES**

This refers to the Memorandum received by this office on September 14, 2021 regarding the letter of Mr. Pedrito M. Nepomuceno of Boac, Marinduque requesting for information about the existence and conservation of native turtles.

Based on the actual experience of our field men, there are still plenty of native turtle in the province. Based on the submitted reports, there are sightings of native turtles, for instance on January 31, 2021, Mr. Christopher Lacerna found a Malayan box turtle while driving with his tricycle. He surrendered it to Gasan Municipal Police Station. It was turned over to PENRO Marinduque and on February 2, 2021, the turtle was released at Mahinhin creek, Boac, Marinduque, as the standard procedure. Likewise, it can be observed most of the time walking or crossing on highways during rainy seasons, and they even appear in the backyards during feeding times of some domesticated animals.

Furthermore, please be informed that our office always implement policies and programs as per mandate of the DENR for the protection and conservation of wildlife, this includes native turtles like “Bao or Pagong” in accordance with Republic Act 9147, also known as AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THEIR HABITATS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. According to its declaration of state policies and principles, *it shall be the policy of the State to conserve the country’s wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability.*

The DENR shall have the jurisdiction over all terrestrial plant and animal species, all **turtles and tortoises** and wetland species, including but not limited to crocodiles, water birds and all amphibians and dugong, as stated in Section 4 therein. Rest assured that all actions necessary for the protection of wildlife is always being undertaken by our office in accordance with the above mentioned special and other related environmental laws.

We also would like to emphasize that we have Deputized Wildlife Enforcement Officers or WEOs whose general functions are to enforce environmental laws, patrol forests and conservation areas, and make arrest when necessary. They are the ones tasked to protect

all wildlife species within their jurisdiction, and the environment as a whole. In addition to this, we have established a Wildlife Rescue Center in Sitio Talisay, Bonliw, Torrijos in order to rehabilitate rescued wildlife, and also a hatchery located in Barangay Masiga, Gasan for marine turtles.

PENRO Marinduque prioritizes all matters in relation to the protection of the environment, as it is the habitat of our wildlife. Investigations and patrolling are always being conducted to make sure that no abuse to the environment or to the wildlife is being made by anyone, and to bring violators to justice in accordance with the law. We shall continue to perform this sworn duty for the benefit of the state and to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the rhythm and harmony of nature (*Article II, Section 16, 1987 Constitution*)

For information and further instruction.

IMELDA M. DIAZ

Cc: Presidential Complaint Center (PCC)
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