



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
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MEMORANDUM

TO : **ATTY. WILFREDO G. MONCANO**
Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Mining and Muslim Affairs
Supervising Undersecretary for Forest Management Bureau

SUBJECT : **NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA)
INFRASTRUCTURES AFFECTED BY EXCESSIVE QUARRYING**

DATE : September 7, 2021

This refers to the letter dated August 4, 2021 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret), Administrator of NIA – Central Office (CO), addressed to DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimat, regarding the above subject.

We are forwarding to you the said letter with its attachments for your information, comments and further appropriate action in accordance with existing policies, laws and regulations. Please inform Gen. Visaya of the action/s taken regarding the matter, copy furnished this Office. Thank you.


JIM O. SAMPULNA, CESO I

cc: **Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret)**
Administrator
National Irrigation Administration
National Government Center, EDSA
Diliman, Quezon City



Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
Central Office

National Irrigation Administration
HRD-Records Section



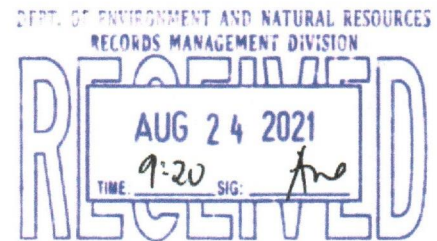
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2021-08-20

August 4, 2021

GEN ROY A CIMATU (Ret)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Secretary
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City



Dear **Secretary Cimat**,

Greetings!

This pertains to the National Irrigation Administration infrastructure projects being threatened by sand and gravel quarry sites which operate too close to its irrigation facilities and structures leading to the adverse effects of excessive quarrying activities such as exposed foundation of said structures, scoured riverbanks, and degraded river beds.

These negative effects are especially pervasive in cases where: a.) the quarry operator/s have excavated more than the prescribed 1-meter extraction-depth limit; b.) excessive quarrying, including those of river boulders which limit speed of river flow, has led to the diversion of the river course and a steeper river slope resulting in rapid erosion of riverbanks; and c.) the coverage of the quarrying area is not effectively marked and delineated using high and conspicuous markers.

This continuous collection of boulders and aggregates in the downstream portion of NIA's structures have caused the rapid erosion of the riverbed which resulted in the weakening of protecting walls and similar structures. Damage of this kind will eventually lead to the collapse of the entire structure.

Shown in **Annex A** hereof is the effect of quarrying activities adjacent to NIA irrigation infrastructure, namely the dams of the Padada RIS in Davao del Norte and Sta. Cruz RIS in Laguna. Damage due to severe erosion caused by quarrying are not isolated to these examples, but rather are a nationwide occurrence. We respectfully enclose **Annex B** herewith for the Consolidated Report on Quarrying Activities Affecting Irrigation Systems/Projects as of June 30, 2021. This highlights the risk of losing irrigation water supply to farmer stakeholders and the damage to public property that will entail immense costs for repair & rehabilitation.

In addition, we submit the case of Sibalom RIS in Iloilo (as **Annex C**) where the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (Region 6) Chaired by the National Economic and Development Authority observed that "the diversion dam is in danger of being severely damage which may be attributed to intensive and improper quarrying within 1 kilometer downstream, since its end seal and concrete blocks are getting eroded due to continued lowering of the riverbed by around 1 meter with spillway already hanging which may soon crack and disintegrate." Results of the NIA technical survey, to determine the downstream and upstream distances from the diversion dam where quarrying shall be prohibited to allow for the river basin to return to its original elevation and protect the existing irrigation structures, recommended that the quarry area should be 2.8-kilometer away (downstream of the diversion dam).

This suggests that further studies must be made to determine whether Section 79. (a) of DAO No. 2010-21 (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942 "Philippine Mining Act of 1995") which provides that "No extraction, removal and/or



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disposition of materials shall be allowed within a distance of *one (1) kilometer* from the boundaries of reservoirs established for public water supply, archeological and historical sites or of any public or private works or structures, unless the prior clearance of the Government agency/ies concerned or owner is obtained" provide adequate safeguards for public property.

In view of the foregoing, the National Irrigation Administration respectfully requests the following:

- a.) Strict enforcement and support of the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES); and
- b.) Further studies for the appropriate delineation of the radius of prohibited quarry areas adjacent to public infrastructure as set forth in Section 79. (a) of DAO No. 2010-21.

Item a.) is requested as it is entrusted with the mandate of the Protection of all public infrastructure as well as the Preservation of the integrity of the river systems Region-wide from excessive and improper quarrying activities done by quarry operators. We also humbly note that NIA has no authority to stop such detrimental quarry operations, and thus are appealing for the establishment of necessary guidelines, protocol, and special provisions for the protection of irrigation infrastructure projects. The central thrust of which would be to safeguard and protect public infrastructure, as well as preserve the integrity of the river system supporting irrigation projects

A science-based approach for *Item b.)* is timely to prescribe regulations which will harmonize the needs of the Construction Industry for Quarry Materials with the protection and preservation of our river systems.

Rest assured that we will make ourselves available for any audience or further clarifications that your good Office may require for us to present anent our request.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

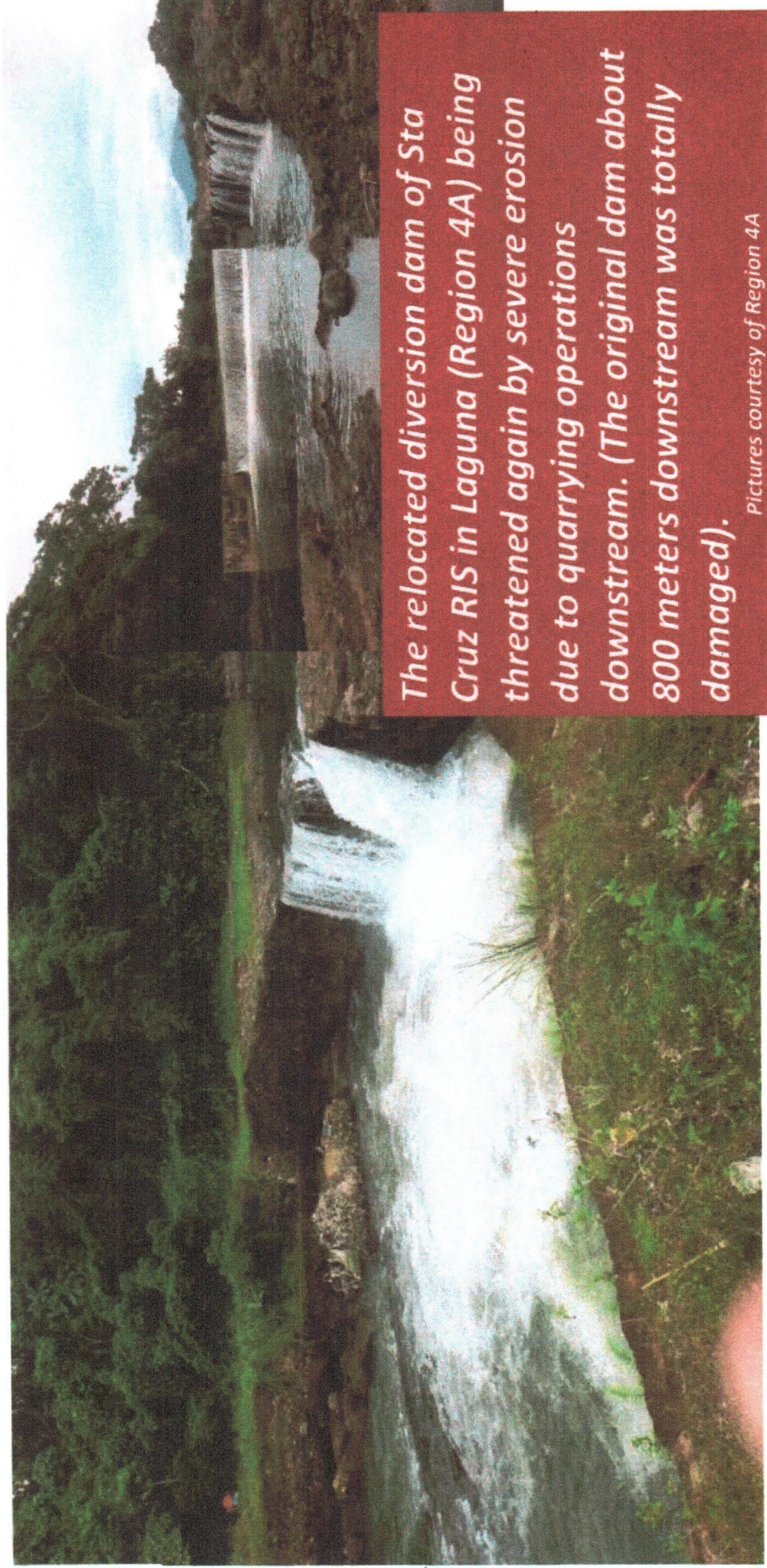

GEN. RICARDO R. VISAYA (Ret)
Administrator

	Lower Chico RIS	Intake	17° 41' 19.43" N 121° 26' 16.89" E	Chico River	480 m	Registered Quarry Site.
	Solana Pump IS	Pump SUMP	17° 35' 51.79" N 121° 40' 52.56" E	Cagayan River	1,300 m	Included in the POW of DPWH R2 for the dredging of the Cagayan River to mitigate excessive flooding as experienced last year.
Isabela IMO	No Quarrying Activities Affecting Irrigation Systems/Projects					
Nueva Vizcaya IMO	No Quarrying Activities Affecting Irrigation Systems/Projects					
Quirino IMO	No Quarrying Activities Affecting Irrigation Systems/Projects					
Region 3						
TARZAM IMO	Nayom-Bayto RIS	Nayom Dam	Brgy. Guinabon, Sta. Cruz, Zambales	Nayom River	1 km. (Distance upstream and downstream from the structure)	Quarrying activities at downstream.
	Nayom-Bayto RIS	Bayto Dam	Brgy. Tubo-tubo, Sta. Cruz, Zambales	Bayto River	4-5 km. (Distance upstream from the structure)	Mining activities at upstream.
	North Lawis IP	North Lawis Dam	Brgy. Pinagrealan, Candelaria, Zambales	North Lawis River	500 m. (Distance upstream from the structure)	Quarrying activities at upstream.
	Upper Prenza CIS	Upper Prenza Dam	Brgy. Sta. Barbara, Iba, Zambales	Bancal River	3-4 km.	Quarrying activities at downstream.
PAMBAT IMO	Pampanga Delta RIS	Anoa Dam	Mexico, Pampanga	Anao River	1 km.	Quarrying activities on-going with approximately one (1) km. away upstream from the Diversion System Damaged Canal System.
Region 4A						
Laguna-Rizal IMO	Balanac RIS, Magdalena	Ogee Dam	14.199970; 121.441136	Balanac River	0.94 km.	Distance of quarry from diversion dam of Balanac.

	Sta. Cruz RIS, Liliw	Ogee Dam	14.1979; 121.406983	Sta. Cruz (Lapad) River	1.35 km. 1 km.	Distance of quarry with permit. Illegal small quarry from diversion of Sta. Cruz.
Region 4B						
Occidental Mindoro	Lumintao RIS	Intake Structure (1 st Intake)	12° 31' 21.2011" N 120° 59' 16.1173" E	Lumintao River	750.46 m.	Deepening of river beds caused by quarrying activities, resulted collapsed/washed out of retaining wall.
		Intake Structure (2 nd Intake)	12° 31' 21.068" N 120° 59' 11.627" E	Lumintao River	549.50 m.	Deepening of river beds caused by quarrying activities, resulted scouring at protection works and sluiceway.
	Bansud RIS	Trapezoidal Dam	12.8621147° N 121.450439° E	Bansud River	300 m.	Quarrying activity in the downstream portion of dam contributed to the damage of downstream apron. After continuous typhoons (Quinta, Rolly, Siony, Tonyo and Ulysses), the downstream apron collapsed.
Mindoro Oriental- Marinduque- Romblon IMO	Malayas CIS	Siphon	13° 22' 9" N & 121° 16' 12" E and 13° 08' 23.54" N 121° 14' 38.81" E	Malaya River	50 m.	Quarrying of private entity is located along the constructed siphon. The constructed backfill for siphon was damaged, resulted the siphon to be visible. Coordination meetings were conducted to request to stop quarry ing in the area.
	Pula RIS	Ogee Dam	13° 9' 0" N 121° 54' 23" E	Pula River	1,100 m.	Quarrying activities in the downstream prtion of dam contributed to the lowering of the

ANNEX A

NIA DAMS AFFECTED BY QUARRY OPERATIONS



The relocated diversion dam of Sta Cruz RIS in Laguna (Region 4A) being threatened again by severe erosion due to quarrying operations downstream. (The original dam about 800 meters downstream was totally damaged).

Pictures courtesy of Region 4A



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To furnish MGB regions concerned:

① Region 1	⑦ Region 7	⑫ Region 12
② Region 2	⑧ Region 8	⑬ Region 13
③ Region 3	⑨ Region 9	⑭ CAR
④ Region 4A	⑩ Region 10	
⑤ Region 4B	⑪ Region 11	
⑥ Region 6		