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## giving hope to unemployed El Nido residents

1 message

**Florentino Tesoro** <ftesoro927@yahoo.com>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 8:34 PM

To: Maria Lourdes Ferrer <mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph>

Cc: Toto Sanos <penropalawan@denr.gov.ph>, Charlie Yu <acy@eelhi.com.ph>, Ishtar Padao <icpadao@elnidofoundation.org>

Dear RED Ferrer:

Greetings. Hoping that you are in the best of health amid this COVID 19 pandemic.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the El Nido Foundation, Inc. (ENFI). ENFI is a social development organization committed to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of El Nido and neighboring communities, while at the same time preserving the area's natural integrity. It has participated in several projects and activities designed to preserve and conserve the environment. Only lately, ENFI participated in the removal of Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) in order to prevent damage to the corals of El Nido.

El Nido is a tourist destination and the main source of income of majority of the residents come from tourism related employment. With the advent of COVID-19 which restricted travel and the closure of many tourists destinations in the country including El Nido resorts, many of the tourism related employees lost their jobs. Right now they need alternative livelihood activities. One such area is natural resources-based livelihood that is sustainable and not resource depleting.

There are two members of the Board of Directors of El Nido Foundation Inc. who are residents of El Nido. They assert that there are abundant bamboo resources in the forestlands in their area, basically boho. Actually, there are already some residents who are already into the utilization and processing of buho into finished products such as woven products like sawali and baskets. The sustainable utilization of buho by an organized community can prove to be a highly possible alternative livelihood in some of the upland communities of El Nido. It can become a profitable enterprise that can provide hope to some of the residents of EL Nido amid the covid 19 pandemic.

The El Nido Foundation Inc. would like to partner with DENR MIMAROPA, PENRO Palawan including the PAMO of El Nido - Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area in providing hope to displaced employees and upland farmers of El Nido by establishing a sustainable bamboo processing enterprise in selected barangays in El Nido.

If you agree the first activity is to determine the amount of bamboo resources in the selected barangays. Allow me and the El Nido Foundation Inc to communicate directly with PENRO Sanos of Palawan, the CENRO who has jurisdiction of El Nido (CENRO Allan Valle) and the PASu of the Protected Area (PASu Mildred Suza). You will be informed of any activity and undertaking that will be conducted in this endeavor. Determination of the amount of bamboo resources is needed in seeking assistance from other national government agencies such as DTI and DOST.

Thank you for our kind consideration.

Flor Tesoro