



28 April 2021

ATTY. JOSE ANDRES CANIVEL

Executive Director
Forest Foundation Philippines

ATTY. TEODORO JOSE MATTA

Executive Director
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

Dear **Atty. Canivel and Atty. Matta**:

This has reference to the recently conducted Partners Meeting for the Palawan Landscape wherein the undersigned was one of the speakers. One of the questions asked after my presentation was in relation to the Construction of Coron-Culion Inter-Island Bridges in Calamianes Islands, Palawan.

As an update and upon coordination with our Regional Office, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) MIMAROPA Region has already issued a Work Suspension Order to J.H. Pahara Construction Corporation effective April 8, 2021. This was in response to the conducted Special MIMAROPA Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) Meeting conducted last April 7, 2021 which was organized to discuss the project implementation status of the said project.

During the meeting, it was also agreed that a Technical Working Group (TWG) will be created to monitor the compliance of the project to regulatory requirements. This TWG will be chaired by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Various offices and stakeholders have expressed their concerns on the implementation of this project particularly on its possible effect on the environment and livelihood of the local community.

As advocates of inclusive and sustainable development, we have been consistent in promoting balance in economic, environmental and social growth.

Again, we extend our gratitude for inviting DOT to present the Transforming Communities Towards Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism (TouRIST) Program and the Sustainable Tourism Development Project (STDP). We are with you in this journey to sustainable development.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


CARLOS L. MAGNAYE
Director
Office of Special Concerns