



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Justice
PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MIMAROPA-REGION IV-B
Roxas District Office
Sta. Fe, Bagumbayan
Roxas, Oriental Mindoro

15 May 2021

TO: MARIA LOURDES G. FERRER, CESO III
The Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
1515 L&S Building, Roxas Boulevard
Ermita, Manila

THRU: ALMA E. GIBE
OIC – CENR Officer
San Mariano, Roxas
Oriental Mindoro

SUBJECT: Request for further guidance and clarification as regards the remaining area of Buyayao Island, Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro (Outside the portion granted/ awarded to Greenland Corporation)

Dear Madam:

Greetings!

I am grateful for the attention given to our letter dated 20 February 2021 seeking for clarification as regards the classification of land of Buyayao Island in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.

Your guidance and expertise in this area is very much relied upon. However, a few more questions came to mind.

In the second week of May 2021, we received a reply from OIC- CENR Officer Alma E. Gibe.

In that letter (dated 16 March 2021), she discussed three major points:

First, she clarified that Buyayao Island was classified as **timberland** by the then Director of Forestry sometime in **1926**.

Second. Sometime in **1975**, a portion (206 hectares more or less) of the Island was granted to Greenland Realty and Development Corporation. In fact, such was included in OCT No. RO-29 (406).

Third. Proclamation No. 1801 declared Buyayao as a Tourist Zone and Marine reserve under the administration and control of the Philippine Tourism Authority.

Following the reply of Ms. Gibe, it appears that the OCT was issued in spite the land was still classified as a timberland. To our mind, our initial query remains unanswered.

In that line, may I further raise three major questions as well.

First. Whether the issuance of OCT No. RO-29 (406) in favor of Greenland Corporation changed the whole classification of Buyayao Island from timberland to being that of Alienable and Disposable land?


Second. Whether the remaining portion of Buyayao Island is now free for application and/or titling for any individual, entity and/or corporation who may meet the necessary requirements laid down by prevailing rules and laws.

Finally. How then will we reconcile the three aspects discussed in such letter to apply now, first: Buyayao Island classified as timberland, second: the issuance of an Original Certificate of Title to a private corporation, and lastly: the issuance of the Presidential Proclamation declaring Buyayao Island as a Tourist and Marine Reserve?

In summary: Whether Buyayao Island (the remaining 43 hectares more or less portion) may be claimed and/or awarded to other private individuals following the initial grant to a private corporation.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


MARIE GRACE R. TRINIDAD
Public Attorney III/ OIC
Roxas District Office