



As Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Coron, Palawan
Email add: cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph

April 11, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA
1515 L&S Bldg. Roxas Blvd.
Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Coron, Palawan

SUBJECT : PROJECT SAGIP CORON, PALAWAN: CANCELLATION OF
ILLEGAL RECLAMATION, FORFEITURE AND
REHABILITATION OF ILLEGALLY RECLAIMED LAND

Respectfully forwarded is the letter dated April 09, 2022 of Project Sagip, Coron, Palawan which was received by this Office on April 11, 2022 on the above cited subject.

As per letter received, they will conduct a symbolic tree-planting activity scheduled on April 22, 2022 (Friday) and designed to plant within the reclaimed area.

For your information, comments, approval and further instructions.

For and in the absence of the CENRO:


MARK GLENN T. MANAGDAG
ECOMS II/In-Charge, Office of the CENRO



April 9, 2022

HON. JIM O. SAMPULNA, PhD, CESO I
DENR Acting Secretary
Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

ATTY. JANILO E. RUBIATO
PRA General Manager and CEO
7F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg,
107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legazpi Village, Makati

HON. ATTY. WILFREDO G. MONCANO
Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
MGB Compound, North Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

RE: Project Sagip Coron, Palawan: Cancellation of Illegal Reclamation, Forfeiture
and Rehabilitation of Illegally Reclaimed Land

Dear Acting Secretary Sampulna, CEO & GM Atty. Rubiato and Director Moncano,

Greetings! We were privileged to have had a conference call on March 28, 2022 with Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea joined by Senator Bong Go and Assistant Secretary Lisette Marques and our legal counsel, Atty. Julito "Sarge" Sarmiento. We did a follow-through discussion of the orders and instructions of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in our meeting last March 22, 2022, on the illegal reclamation in Coron, the forfeiture of such illegally reclaimed lands, and the commencement of the tree-planting and rehabilitation in Coron.

In our said conference call, Executive Secretary Medialdea instructed us to work closely with your good selves as the Heads of the DENR, PRA and MGB, respectively, and resolve any outstanding potential issues on this urgent matter. We also gathered from Assistant Secretary Lisette Marques that the (DENR) Office of the President has formed a Task Force to attend to and act on the orders of the President.

Accordingly, we respectfully wish to invite you to a meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 10:00am at the Presidents Room, Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Makati, Metro Manila to discuss on how we can humbly assist you to faithfully and expeditiously implement the orders of the President in accordance with the law as well as to update each other on the progress made with regard to our respective initiatives in the last two weeks.

AMENDMENT: We also gathered from Assistant Secretary Lisette Marques that the DENR has formed a Task Force comprised of the MGB and EMB to attend to and act on the orders of the President. 0411-2022 J. Moncano

We are encouraged by Acting Secretary Sampulna's exhortation in a meeting with the DENR top officials in MIMAROPA Region on April 4, 2022, urging them *"to ensure the delivery of excellent public service above all, reminding each one to uphold integrity while performing their best for the interest of the people and the nation"*.

In this regard, we respectfully request Acting Secretary Sampulna to tap for purposes of the President's order for the rehabilitation of Coron's devastated coastal seafront the specialized expertise of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). The BMB is tasked to maintain and protect the marine protected areas in the country under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

Indeed, Coron is a Natural Biotic Area included in the World Heritage Site (Tentative List) as submitted by the DENR itself to UNESCO on May 16, 2006. Coron's fragile environment has been zealously guarded and preserved by the State going back as far as 55 years ago in 1967 when it was declared a National Reserve under Proclamation No. 219, then a Tourist Zone and Marine Reserve under Proclamation No. 1801 in 1978, a Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserve within Palawan in 1981 under Proclamation No. 2152, and finally, a Priority Protected Area under the NIPAS Act of 1992.

The BMB, through its Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) should conduct an immediate, extensive and in-depth marine ecosystem study on the adverse impacts of the illegal reclamation in Coron and set out the roadmap for its short-term and long-term rehabilitation, particularly in the absence of any relevant study and environmental mitigation measures undertaken by the CBRDP proponent.

CMEMP's mission under DENR Administrative Order 2016-26 *"to comprehensively manage, address and effectively reduce the drivers and threats of degradation of the coastal and marine ecosystems in order to achieve and promote sustainability of ecosystem services, food security and climate change resiliency for the benefit of present and future generations,"* would be the most necessary, appropriate and effective intervention by the Government to rectify not only the massive environmental destruction on Coron's seafront marine ecosystem but also to address the grave economic loss for the fisherfolks, residents and Tagbanuwas in Coron who heavily depended on the now dead and buried mangroves, seas grass and coral reefs as spawning grounds for fish and other marine species for their food and livelihood for generations.

Given the enormous challenge for the rehabilitation needed in Coron, we finally request for the Acting Secretary Sampulna to coordinate with, enlist and deputize the relevant brigades and assets of the appropriate branches off the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to assist and work with the DENR, DILG, DPWH, PNP, Sagip Coron, Palawan and its partners in civic society in the remediation of the devastated environment in Coron covering destroyed mountains, marine ecosystem and displaced households.

From our side, we wish to report that we have actually made a trip to Coron on April 6-8, 2022, where we personally conducted an ocular inspection and witnessed the massive environmental destruction in the affected mountains and marine ecosystem caused by the illegal reclamation. We also met and informed the local leaders of the Sagip Coron, Palawan on the most positive results of our March 22 meeting with the President and the swift action taken by PRA GM Atty. Rubiato in issuing the Cease-and-Desist Order against the Palawan Provincial Government for its failure to comply with key conditions of its approval.

The people of Coron, comprising farmers, fisherfolks, elders, youth, Tagbanuwas, church leaders, and ordinary residents committed to conduct a massive signature campaign as a show of their gratitude to the President and to express the clear, overwhelming and unequivocal public stand of the vast majority of Coronians, for:

- (i) the permanent stoppage of the illegal reclamation project and quarrying through the cancellation of its PRA permit and Environmental Compliance Certificate for fatal lack, among others, of any proof of Area Clearance, public consultation, feasibility studies, transparent and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement, social acceptability, and Strategic Environmental Permit (SEP) Clearance;
- (ii) the forfeiture of illegally reclaimed lands in favor of the State without need of judicial action based on Section 5.4 of PRA's own Administrative Order No. 2019-4 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 74 dated 1 February 2019 (S. 2019); and
- (iii) the immediate rehabilitation and restoration of environmentally devastated lands, mangroves, and marine ecosystem, including the launch of a tree-planting on April 22, 2022, consistent with the President's instructions.

We closely coordinated our visit with PNP Region IV-B Regional Director, PGEN. Sidney Hernia, Palawan Provincial Director PCOL. Adonis B. Guzman and Coron Municipal Police Chief PCAPT. Argie Eslava. We expressed our gratitude and appreciation to them for ensuring our security and safety during our Coron visit.

In this regard, our Sagip Coron, Palawan local team will meet with Coron CENRO Arnoldo A. Blaza, Jr. on Monday, April 11, 2022, to discuss the aforesaid matters and seek his able assistance and guidance at the local level in Coron, particularly during our symbolic tree-planting initiative scheduled for April 22, 2022.

We are also pleased that upon our collaboration with the Palawan Network of NGOs Inc. (PNNI), we were able to put a hold on the ongoing effort for the reclassification of the "ECAN Zoning" into a multi-purpose zone of Coron during the Committee hearing on April 7, 2021 of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

By a copy of this letter, may we kindly request in the interest of transparency and full public disclosure for a copy of the key documents from the concerned government offices, as follows:

- ✓ (1) Cease-Desist Order (CDO) previously issued by the DENR or CENRO Calamian on the Coron Bay Reclamation and Development Project (CBRDP);
- ✓ (2) CDO previously issued by the MGB on the quarry projects;
- (3) Notice of Violations issued by the DENR on the CBRDP and quarry projects;
- (4) Notice of Violations issued by the MGB on the quarry projects;
- (5) Reclamation Permit or Approval issued by the PRA for Phase 1 of the CBRDP;
- (6) Resolution of Approval and Notice to Proceed (NTP) with all stated conditions, issued by the PRA on Phase 2 of the CBRDP;
- (7) Environmental Impact Assessment on the CBRDP from the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office;
- (8) Cost-benefit analysis, public consultations and multi-stakeholder engagement, feasibility study, and any other studies conducted by the CBRDP proponent filed with the PRA and/or the DENR;
- (9) Strategic Environmental Permit (SEP) Clearance from PCSD;
- (10) Minutes of Meeting of PCSD Committee on April 7, 2022, putting on hold the reclassification of the "ECAN Zoning" into a multi-purpose zoning of Coron; and
- (11) Minutes of meeting and pictures on the meeting with the President Duterte on March 22, 2022 with Sagip Coron, Palawan Team from the Presidential Management Staff.

Thank you for the rare opportunity to collaborate with all of you and the entire Government in a whole-of-nation approach to rehabilitate Coron and make it a model and template for the protection and preservation of the environment in our country as a lasting legacy of President Duterte.


We look forward to your favorable and usual prompt reply.

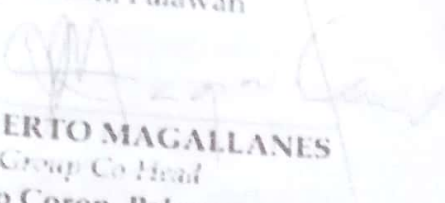
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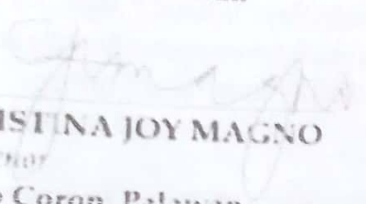
PROJECT SAGIP CORON, PALAWAN

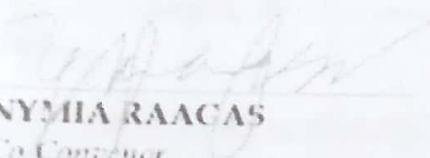
✓ BOB MAGALLANES - 09663528055
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