



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office  
Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan  
Telephone No. +63 917 504 2633  
E-mail: cenrocoron@denr.gov.ph Website: www.denr.gov.ph

August 25, 2022

**ALBERTO ELMER L. GARDIOLA**

VP/Overall Administrative Manager  
Newington Builders Inc.  
Unit D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, One Felicity Center  
Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City

Attention: Engr. Pao Baltazar

Dear Mr. Gardiola,

Greetings from CENRO Coron!

This is in connection to the Email sent by RED Lormelyn E. Claudio to the undersigned dated August 23, 2022 regarding the letter of former Department of Tourism Secretary and Adviser to a people's organization called Buklod Calamianes, Ms. Narzalina Lim.

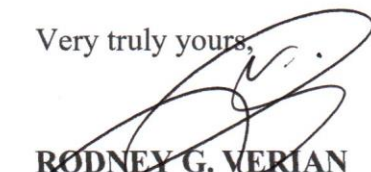
The content of the letter pertains to their online petition against the proposed Coron-Culion Bridge. We are attaching said letter for your perusal.

In this regard, this office would like to seek your comment and position on the matter. It is our earnest request that you submit your response immediately.

Furthermore, as per advise from RED Claudio the activities on the said project is ordered temporarily suspended until further notice.

Hoping that you are properly informed. Thank You.

Very truly yours,

  
**RODNEY G. VERIAN**  
OIC-CENRO



CF:  
RED  
PENRO  
DPWH

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Narzalina Lim** <[narzalinalim@gmail.com](mailto:narzalinalim@gmail.com)>

Date: Sat, Aug 20, 2022 at 12:16 PM

Subject: Coron- Culion Interconnecting Bridge

To: [leclaudio.mimaropa@gmail.com](mailto:leclaudio.mimaropa@gmail.com) <[leclaudio.mimaropa@gmail.com](mailto:leclaudio.mimaropa@gmail.com)>

Dir. Lormelyn Claudio, CESO IV  
Regional Executive Director  
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
[1515 Roxas Blvd.](#)  
[Ermita, Manila](#)

Dear Dir. Claudio,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ms. Narzalina Lim, former DOT Secretary and Adviser to a people's organization called Buklod Calamianes covering the islands of Coron, Busuanga, Culion, Linapacan.

In April 2021, through our efforts and an online petition posted by stakeholders in [change.org](https://change.org) ( attached) against the proposed Coron-Culion Bridge, we were able to convince the DPWH Director of IV-B, Yolanda Tangco, to issue a Work Suspension Order to stop the 3-km road widening in Bintuan, Coron, in preparation for construction of the bridge, on the grounds that the activity did not have the required government clearances. Kindly see a copy of the work order, attached.

Additionally, the PENRO replied to the query of Atty. Grizelda Mayo-Anda of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center based in Puerto Princesa on why that road widening project was allowed. Please see a copy of the PENRO's reply, attached. There are two recommendations listed therein for the DENR to implement. May we know the status of implementation? Your predecessor, Dir. Lourdes Ferrer was very much aware of this project because she joined a webinar organized by OCEANA to help Buklod Calamianes air out all the issues pertinent to this road widening project which continued with impunity even after the Work Suspension Order was issued.

It is with great consternation, therefore, that we saw in social media that there was a pre-bidding conducted by DPWH IV-B for the construction of the bridge. We reached out to DPWH Director Pacanan to express our concerns about the lack of stakeholder consultations and the necessary permits from the DENR, PCSD and other government agencies. Dir. Pacanan issued a notice for the postponement of bid submissions which was supposed to be on August 30 and to conduct stakeholder consultations.

It is clear to us that the construction of this bridge is being done in haste, in clear violation of Philippine laws. We are enlisting the help of the DENR to strictly enforce environmental laws and regulations; to investigate why the DPWH went ahead to bid out this project without the requisite clearances; and to share with us stakeholders the results of your investigation.

For your information, I have had a meeting with Mr and Mrs. Marion Raagas and Mr. Bob Magallanes of Sagip Coron on this issue as they have successfully reversed the reclamation project in Coron which has now been forfeited to the state. I have enlisted their support to help us challenge the construction of this bridge.

Thank you for your kind attention and I look forward to hearing from you. My mobile number is 917-524-7649.

Yours very truly,

Narzalina Z. Lim

cc. Hon. Antonio Yulo Loyzaga, Secretary  
Mr. Marion Raagas and Mr. Bob Magallanes