



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
National Highway, Bgy. Alfonso XIII, Quezon, Palawan
Email: cenroquezon@denr.gov.ph

February 15, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC-Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

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

SUBJECT : **PCIJ INTERVIEW REQUEST RE PALM OIL PLANTATIONS
IN PALAWAN**

This pertains with the Memorandum dated February 14, 2022 from the In-Charge, Office of the PENRO Johnny P. Lilang anent letter request from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism relative to the above subject particularly on following:

1. *We would like to understand why some of the palm oil plantations overlap protected areas, ancestral domains and Community Based Forest Management Agreement areas.*
 - a. Based on our record, there are no palm oil plantations established within the Community Based Forest Management areas within the area of jurisdiction of CENRO Quezon, Palawan. However, with regards to the ancestral domain it was stated under Sec 57 of RA 8371 or known as *Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA Law)* that "The ICCs/IP shall have priority rights in the harvesting, extraction, development or exploitation of any natural resources within the ancestral domain. A non member of the ICCs/IPs concerned may be allowed to take part in the development and utilization of the natural resources for a period of not exceeding twenty-five (25) years renewable for not more than twenty-five (25) years: provided, that a formal and written agreement is entered into with the ICCs/IPs concerned or that the community, pursuant its owned decision making process, as agreed to allow such operation: provided, finally, that the NCIP may exercise visitorial powers and take appropriate action to safeguard the rights of the ICCs/IPs under the same contract. Hence, oil palm plantation establishment is allowed within CADT areas as stipulated in Section 57 of RA 8371. Further, please be informed that any project may be established within the Protected Area (PA) and Ancestral Domain area in consideration of the existing DENR policies and harmonization of Protected Area Management Plan and ADSDPP.

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