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February 2, 2022

## NATIVIDAD Y. BERNARDINO

DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau OIC-Director

THRU CHANNEL:

LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO

OIC-Regional Executive Director, DENR-MIMAROPA

Dear Dir. Bernardino,

Greetings of peace and prosperity!

The Mindoro State University is one with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) in providing natural resilient and sustainable Philippine Biodiversity and in promoting, protecting, and conserving our natural environment resources.

For more than half a century since our university was founded, MinSU (formerly the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology) is one of the active partners of the DENR in the region in the promotion, protection, conservation and management activities for our environment and natural resources. Those years show the strong dedication of our university towards wildlife and environmental conservation.

As some of the important goals of BMB are the mainstreaming biodiversity across local, sectoral and national development plans and program and the promotion of biodiversity-friendly practices at the same time, the University would like to strengthen its determination to be part of such great endeavors.

Currently, the Mindoro State University – Victoria (main) Campus has an estimated 23 hectare of forest land which we call MinSU Forest Reservation. This area is located at the eastern hilly part of the university beyond the Alcate Creek.

The MinSU Forest Reservation area is one of the very few undeveloped lands with very minimal disturbance from human activities. The area contains many different endemic flora and fauna species. Sadly, there is no updated data for the past decade since the last assessment of the biodiversity of the abovementioned forest. This is due to the fact that the university lacks the necessary manpower and experts to conduct biodiversity assessments and other ecological assessment data.

In this regard, we are humbly requesting your good office for the support in conducting the necessary assessments. The data to be gathered will not only serve as component in our Land-Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) preparation, but will importantly serve as the basis for policy formulation and regulation for the protection of such vulnerable areas against human interventions.

May this merit your favorable and usual consideration.

Thank you and God bless us all!

Sincerely yours,

LEVY B. ARAGO, JR

University President