



Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

Feb. 9, 2022

HON. LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO
Regional Executive Director
Department on Environment and Natural Resources – Mimaropa
1515 L & S Building, Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila
mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph

Subject: Interview request and/or request for comment

Dear Director Claudio:

Greetings from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ). We hope this letter reaches you and your staff well.

We write in connection with a PCIJ report on palm oil plantations in Palawan. In this regard, we would like to **request an interview with you or your staff**. It would be helpful if we can discuss the 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.
2. We also understand that the farmer cooperatives have suffered from unfair land acquisitions and/or lease agreements with Agumil (with a 14% interest on loans). May we ask about what is being done about this?
3. We also learned that the DENR has stopped the operations of Agumil in July 2019 for polluting the Calabugan River in Brooke's Point. May we request for a copy of records regarding DENR's investigation on this? We would also like to request information on the status of Agumil's operations. Is the mill still closed?



4. With Agumil's operations closed, the farmers/cooperatives are not able to sell their harvest which makes it hard for them to pay off loans. Please comment.

Thank you very much for looking into our request. **It would be helpful if we can schedule the interview in the next two weeks (before Feb. 25) at your convenient time.** We will release the story at the end of the month.

For questions or clarifications, please move mail to kmilagan@pcij.org or kindly call me at +63-956-526-4714.

Respectfully,



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