Carlos P. Sayang Compound, Mitra Road, Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City 5300 Palawan Telefax (48) 433-5183; Email: elacpalawan@gmail.com

July 14, 2022

Lormelyn E. Claudio

Regional Executive Director
Department of Environmental and Natural Resources - MIMAROPA
DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila

Re: <u>Construction of Causeway affecting Barangays Maasin</u> and Mambalot in Brooke's Point, Palawan

Dear Regional Director Claudio:

Greetings!

We write on behalf of the members of the Palaw'an indigenous community of Brgy Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan, who requested assistance from our office through a letter¹ in relation to their complaint about a port being constructed within their ancestral waters.

To confirm this report, our ELAC staff² met with the indigenous community members and leaders who conveyed the following adverse impacts caused by the construction of the causeway:

- Noise and dust pollution caused by heavy equipment operating 24 hours:
- <u>Fishing areas covered by silt</u> making the water murky and silted where baby lobsters, bivalves, shellfish and other crustaceans were traditionally harvested, depriving the fishermen of lobster gathering which used to be their main source of income; and
- Roughly 300 families losing their main source of income.

¹ Annex 1 - letter of Palaw'an IPMR and Community members in Maasin requesting for assistance

² Annex 2 - picture of ELAC staff and Palaw'an community meeting



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We would like to request for a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that covers the development of this project and the mitigating measures in the construction of the causeway. Likewise, we request that your office conduct immediately an investigation on the aforementioned community concerns and take steps to alleviate the adverse impact of the causeway construction.

We would like to remind your good office that under the Anti-Red Tape Act, you have **five to ten days to act upon our request**³

We look forward to your prompt and favorable action to this request.

Sincerely,

Atty. Grizelda May Executive Director

Environmental Legal Assistance Center

Legal Staff

Environmental Legal Assistance Center

Action of Offices - (1) All applications and/or requests submitted shall be acted upon by the assigned officer or employee during the period stated in the Citizens Charter which shall not be longer than **five** working days in the case of simple transactions and ten (10) working days in the case of complex transactions from the date the request or application was received.

Section 5 of RA 6713 (Code of Conduct for Public Officials)

Duties of Public Officials and Employees. — In the performance of their duties, all public officials and employees are under obligation to:

(a) Act promptly on letters and requests. — All public officials and employees **shall**, **within fifteen (15) working days from receipt thereof**, **respond to letters**, **telegrams or other means of communications sent by the public**. The reply must contain the action taken on the request.

³ Section 8(b) of RA 9485 (Anti-Red Tape Act)

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Copy Furnish:

Ma. Antonia Yulo Loyzaga

Secretary of Department of Environmental and Natural Resources DENR Bldg. Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Metro Manila: 1100: Philippines

Atty. Wilfredo G. Moncano Director

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Regional Director
DENR - MGB - MIMAROPA
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Roxas 7th floor, 1515 L & S
Building, Roxas

Felizardo B. Cayatoc

Provincial Officer
Provincial Environment and Natural
Resources Office Palawan
Brgy. Sta. Monica, Pto. Princesa
City, Palawan

Dr. Marie Grace T. Pascua, DPA (OIC)

Director for Region IV-B
National Commission on
Indigenous Peoples
3rd Flr. Room 1 and 2, GLC Bldg.
JP Rizal Street,
San Vicente Calapan City, Oriental
Mindoro

Mayor Cesario Benedito Jr

Municipal Mayor Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan

Atty. Jansen I. Jontila

Palawan Provincial Officer (PPO)
National Commission on
Indigenous Peoples
PCSD Building Sports Complex
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City, Palawan,

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Liza G. Battad, PhD

OIC Executive Director
Philippine Council for Agriculture
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Atty. Benjamin C. Abalos, Jr.

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Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia

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Commission on Human Rights
State Auditing and Accounting
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Wilhem M. Suyko

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Philippines 1104



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ANNEX 1

Letter of Palaw'an IPMR and Community members in Brgy. Maasin requesting for assistance

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ATTY. GRIZELOA MAYO-ANDA
EXEURIVE DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (EVAC
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ANNEX 2

Pictures of ELAC staff and Palaw'an community meeting





