



DENR Mimaropa Region <mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph>

Fw: Fw: Violation of DENR San Jose, Occ Mindoro enforcement of construction in a marine Zone

1 message

Monette Caballero <monettecaballero@yahoo.com>

Fri, Jul 22, 2022 at 7:55 PM

To: cenrosanjose@denr.gov.ph

Cc: DENR Mimaropa Region <mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph>, DENR MIMAROPA <denr.mimaropa@gmail.com>, DENR-CENRO San Jose <denrcenro_sanjose@yahoo.com>



ATTENTION: MR. EFREN L. DE LOS REYES

Dear Mr. de los Reyes,

It has come to my attention that a local resident is slowly adding to his already illegal dwelling on the illegal reclamation that was initiated by Mr. Fred Gaudiel. Please see previous emails with pictures that I submitted to DENR MIMAROPA which, with great appreciation was stopped in 2019. It will also provide you with a background on what has transpired.

It is now 2022 and I would like to report that the local named Jonathan Surdilla is building a kitchen addition to his home. It started with him planting some trees, then a chicken coup, and now he has added a kitchen with a concrete stove. I heard he is also planning to cement the floor soon. This has to stop. Your office was apparently advised of this situation but the person who reported the incident was advised I need to send another letter of complaint.

As a background, a year ago I had a verbal conversation with several of the local residents who officially petitioned the illegal reclamation, including Jonathan Surdilla, and together we agreed to allow the reclaimed area to serve as a playground for the children of the area, a docking station of the small boats, and that there will be no further squatting of the reclaimed area. Everyone agreed to this plan. I also received a copy of the letter dated January 15, 2021 addressed to you outlining their request to put a stop to the reclamation and how it is affecting their livelihood. Now, Jonathan Surdilla is encroaching on the reclaimed area himself and the residents are scared to contradict him as he seems to have a "big voice" over everyone else. It is sad that this is the situation. His action will also block access to the other small boats that are using the reclaimed area as a docking station for their means of livelihood.

Why I come to you is because only DENR can put a stop to what Jonathan Surdilla, or anyone else in the area, should be able to do in this reclaimed area. Going to the Barangay is hopeless. It was their Barangay who allowed the reclamation to happen in the first place. Allowing this to continue will be tantamount to permission to everyone to claim a piece of the reclaimed area again.

As this is an existing violation of DENR guidelines, isn't it the responsibility of DENR to closely monitor the activities in the area, and any questionable are for that matter, to avoid additional squatting that may occur in order to avoid another headache for the government to provide relocation to existing and additional illegal settlers when the rehabilitation of the shorelines of Caminawit transpires? Your sanctions and reminders does not seem to be working for this particular area. DENR has allowed the problem to compound by ignoring existing issues to transpire in identified areas and not establishing pro-active measures that should be enforced to lessen the government's efforts in the overall plan to restore the shorelines of the Philippines.

I am a concerned citizen bringing to your attention a potential problem that DENR may be allowing to happen unless stopped before it gets bigger.

Thank you for your attention and I am hopeful that your office will do the right thing. It may also be time to remind the residents of the DENR guidelines pertaining to the reclaimed area. I look forward to your earliest response.

Respectfully yours,

Victoria Caballero

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Sunday, April 7, 2019, 7:14 AM, Monette Caballero <monettecaballero@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thank you for your prompt response.

I would like to inform you further that as of writing this email construction of the enclosure for the reclaimed area is almost complete. As previously advised work is being rushed to start the construction of 14 units of apartments. Not only is the reclamation a violation of the nation's marine zone rehabilitation program, the community will be greatly suffer with its completion and what it will bring to the community. Given the location and surroundings, the apartments will be a breeding ground for prostitution and drugs in the neighbourhood. The war on drugs is already a familiar scenario here. Enough is enough. As it is the marine zone area is now home to several illegal settlers which, through the years have deteriorated into a living example of improper urban planning and where the environment has been sacrificed for lawless and irresponsible citizens who are ignorant of global warming and climate change.





The government initiatives to save the waterfronts are commendable but the implementation is lacking support by the local governments who were given the mandate to implement the rulings of DeNR.

For sure, local sympathy will deteriorate further upon completion of the said reclamation. The construction is tantamount to open defiance of DENR directives which is continually being allowed by local governance who stand to gain from their violation of the law. The community is defiant but scared with majority remaining mum because they too are in the same boat.

But enough is enough. Please help me and help your local DENR save face amidst this outward show of defiance by the perpetrators. Let us not allow the problem to compound. Let us stop further reclamation and permissions to construct in the marine zone. Let us not be part of ignoring what the looming future will hold for this small community.

Could you please provide an update on what action your good office is taking to heed this request. If I could be of further assistance please advise. Your early response is highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Victoria Rey Hipolito Caballero

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 9:49 PM, DENR MIMAROPA <denr.mimaropa@gmail.com> wrote:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email.

Printed and received by the ORED staff. Thank you.

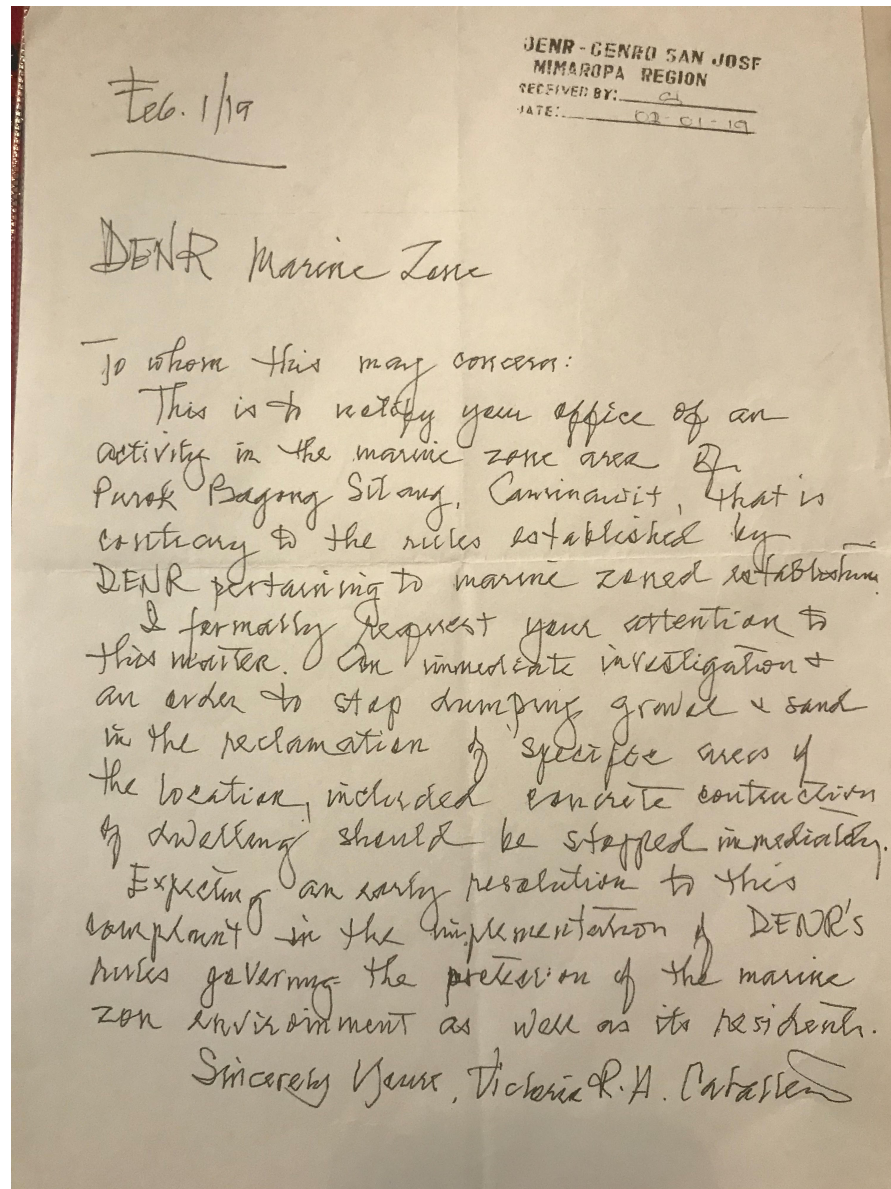
Liza
ICT Staff

On Thu, Apr 4, 2019 at 6:37 AM Monette Caballero <monettecaballero@yahoo.com> wrote:

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 4:01 PM, Monette Caballero
<monettecaballero@yahoo.com> wrote:















I would like your immediate Assistance in stopping the planned construction of a 14-unit apartment right in the marine zone in Caminawit, San Jose, Occ Mindoro.

On Feb 1, 2019 I happen to witness the dumping of gravel and sand by 10-wheeler trucks at the back of our house. Our house is backing to the waterfront.

As I Inquired about the activity, the local people came to me and informed me of the plan to build 14 apartments on the reclaimed area by Mr Fred Gaudiel, an influential local resident, The local people have complained to the Barangay Captain who told them not to meddle. So I told them they should bring their complaint to the local DENR office. They said they wanted to but no one wanted to sign the complaint letter afraid of reprisal eventhough they stand to lose access to the water for their boats and affect whatever fishing livelihood they are engaged in right now. We too will loose the docking area for our boat as well.

Next day, I happen to be visiting the DENR office for some other matter and brought this concern to their attention. I informed them of the reclamation activity that was going on right in our backward that is designated as a

marine zone. I was referred to DENR Field officer Neil Anthony del Mundo and another Guy named Aldeth. They made me write a formal complaint which I hastily did, (see attached letter) and actually volunteered to take them to the area rather than wait for the ocular to be scheduled. Both Officers came with me and did an ocular of the reclamation. They took pictures. We walked the length of the area where right now is densely built up with people living on stilts while others have reclaimed areas where concrete two-story houses have been built. The DENR officials claim they were Not aware of the extent of population living in the marine zone. They spoke to the owner of one two-story house who claimed his son Works for BIR.

We walked to the Barangay office but the Brgy Captain ILO Centeno was out of town. The DENR officer asked the Kagawads present if they knew about the construction and if had a permit but the two kagawads said they were Not aware of it.

The following day I went to the Mayor's office to inquire about the situation. Both Mayor Festin and his environmental aide Tony Diwa said it should Not be permitted but Will wait for the DENR report to take action hence I followed up constantly with DENR office to rush the report. I also spoke to the new Cenro head who promised to complete the report for distribution. On my subsequent visit to the Centro head, he informed me that he had met with all the Barangay captains of areas near the marine zones to reiterate the government's rehabilitation program with regards to the marine zones and solicited their cooperation in stopping any further developments in those areas. Allowing more settlers will create more relocation problems in the future.

I did get a chance to speak with Barangay Captain ILO Centeno who showed me the planned 14 apartment units. I told him Why he gave permission for Mr Gaudiel to block our right to have 2 or 3 meters in Front of our property and he said water doesnt reach there anymore. He said that Mr Gaudiel had a right to the reclamation as the area is NOT part of the marine zone. His definition of a marine zone is one where the area is facing the Ocean, Not a strait or even a bay.

Meanwhile, the construction resumed after a few days of lull. I once again reported it and sent pictures to DENR c/o Neil Anthony del Mundo. I begged for him to do something quick or the construction will be completed sooner rather than later.

I also went to the San Jose Building Permit office and spoke to Engr Edgar Masangkay who said they do not have a building permit request from Mr. Fred Gaudiel in Caminawit. I told him that construction is going on and he said he will check it next day. He never did do the inspection.

Then in March I was told Cenro has formally served letters to Mr. Gaudiel, Brg Capt. ILO Centeno, and the Mayor's office. I asked what the letters will do and they said that if their request is Not heeded they Will file charges which could be punishable with monetary penalty and/or jail sentence. The construction stopped for a few days after that.

It is now April and the construction has resumed again. I was told that Mr Gaudiel is paying overtime to rush the construction and the rumour in the neighbourhood is that it has the blessing of both DENR and the Mayor's office which I am sure is untrue. However, it makes one wonder how is Mr Gaudiel able to push through with his endeavour with no fear of reprisal? Who is backing him up?

Despite requesting the LGU that NO further construction should be allowed, DENR's request is met with cynicism. The locals, surprisingly, are aware of

DENR's clean up program to restore the waterfront of Caminawit like Boracay, but the reality is that people also know it will be years before the program is implemented. Caminawit is Not Boracay nor Manila Bay or El Nido. Any program will not be a priority for a little unknown town. Apparently the Brgy Captain vehemently told CENRO that if Mr Gaudiel is stopped then all the rest of the marine zone occupants should also be removed.

The pristine shores of Caminawit is gone. What was once a beautiful shore with clean water is a thing of the past. It has been replaced with illegal settlers who have managed to pollute the waters with garbage, human waste, unsafe and dangerous environment for the children of the community.....all with the blessing of local politicians. It is a sad state of affairs in Caminawit. The pictures and video will speak for itself.

The local DENR do not have the clout to implement DENR's ruling in the marine zone. They do not have the support of the local government in enforcing the Law. I experienced the beaucracy first hand and its a shame. I gave them the opportunity to do their job but it looks like they need help themselves.

With the government's program to restore and rehabilitate our waterfronts I boldly but humbly beg for your intervention. Your local DENR branch is losing its credibility in the local community. Not being able to stop this reclamation and any more future settlement of the marine zone will just invite more illegal settlers to squat in the marine zone and the politicians would have proven they can defy other government directives and do whatever they want.

Thank You in advance for your attention, support, and action.

Sincerely Yours,

Victoria Rey Hipolito Caballero
Caminawit, San Jose
Occidental Mindoro

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