



Republic of the Philippines

Tourism Infrastructure & Enterprise Zone Authority

06 June 2022

LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV

Regional Executive Director

DENR - Regional Office IV-B

DENR by the Bay Bldg.

1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila

Dear **RED Claudio**:

Greetings from the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority!

In line with the designation of the Municipality of San Vicente in the Province of Palawan as a Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone (FTEZ) in 2015, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between the Municipal Government of San Vicente and TIEZA, creating the San Vicente TEZ Management Committee (SVT ManCom) who will be the interim TEZ Operator in the joint management of the FTEZ by the Department of Tourism (DOT), TIEZA, Municipal Government of San Vicente and the Private Sector. Per the MOA, TIEZA shall provide the necessary and relevant on-site infrastructure support in the implementation of the Master Plan as may be approved by the TIEZA Board. On 24 July 2018, the TIEZA Board approved the construction of large Tourist Assistance Center (TAC) at Brgy. Port Barton in San Vicente, Palawan. The proposed TAC will be developed on a 1,000 square meter lot, a portion of the 3-hectare timberland area covered by a Certificate of Stewardship awarded to Mrs. Jo-Ann B. Achurra.

In this regard, we respectfully request for the certified true copy of the renewed Certificate of Stewardship granted to Mrs. Achurra to check the veracity of the submitted documents. Further, we seek guidance from your office regarding the possible application of TIEZA for a Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism (FLAgT) purposes for the 1,000 square meter lot to be waived by Mrs. Achurra and the legal implications of the waiver of the Certificate of Stewardship Contract (CSC). Furthermore, we would like to verify if TIEZA is eligible to be a CSC Holder in lieu of Mrs. Achurra and if the subject property can be converted into a FLAgT with TIEZA as the applicant.

Likewise, we would like to be apprised on the progress of the reported undertakings of the DENR pertaining to land classification and reclassification in San Vicente that were discussed during the meeting of the San Vicente FTEZ Sub-Technical Working Group (Sub-TWG) on the identification of areas to be reclassified as Alienable and Disposable (A&D) held on 09 November 2021. The Sub-TWG was created to help resolve the issue on property ownership which has become one of the development obstacles in the SVFTEZ. Mr. Eriberto Saños, the former Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of Palawan, led the Sub-TWG but was only able to attend its initial meeting. Hence, we would like to request for update on the following:

1. Repeal of Presidential Proclamation (PP) No. 219 series of 1967 entitled "Declaring the Entire Province of Palawan as Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary, and the Small Island of Palawan as National Reserves; and PP No. 2152 series of 1981 entitled "Declaring the Entire Province of Palawan and Certain Parcels of the Public Domain and/or Parts of the Country as Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserves



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According to Mr. Saños, the PENRO had already completed the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) for the repeal of PP No. 219, while there is an ongoing assessment for PP No. 2152. Both PPs prohibit the occupation of the entire Province of Palawan. Hence, they could be an obstacle to the proposed reclassification of the timberland areas in San Vicente.

2. The PENRO proposed the classification of 4,593 hectares of Unclassified Public Forest (UPF) in San Vicente. The proposal is subject for further assessment and evaluation of the DENR Regional Office.

Further, PENRO Saños reported that there is a pending request for land reclassification for MIMAROPA Region in Congress which was the result of the Forest Line Boundary Delineation (FLBD) program of the DENR. In view of this, we would like to request a copy of the said proposal to be used as a reference of the Sub-TWG.

For questions or clarifications, your staff may coordinate with Ms. Mericris C. Tonio at 0927-141-3362 or via electronic mail at tez.tamd.cmd@tieza.gov.ph.

Thank you and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in working for the country's sustainable tourism.

Sincerely,


HERNANDO A. ENAL

*Manager, TEZ Assistance and Monitoring Department/
Head, San Vicente TEZ Secretariat*

Copy furnished:

TIEZA-TEZ Management Sector
PENRO Palawan
DENR-4B ARD