

<p style="text-align: center;">MEETING/EVENT REPORT <i>Please submit three working days after meeting/ event/ travel</i></p>			
DATE	09 November 2021	TIME	10:00 AM
VENUE	Via Zoom Platform		
EVENT	San Vicente Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone (SVFTEZ) Sub-Technical Working Group (Sub-TWG) Meeting for the Identification of Areas to be Reclassified as Alienable and Disposable (A&D)		
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY <i>Bullet Points</i>	<p>The San Vicente TEZ (SVT) Secretariat facilitated the initial convening of the Sub-TWG. The following were the pertinent discussions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presidential Proclamation (PP) Nos. 219 and 2152 prohibits the occupation of the entire Province of Palawan. These two (2) PPs could be an obstacle in the proposed reclassification of certain areas into A&D. 2. The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), recommended the total repeal of PP 219 considering that there are already designated Protected Areas (PAs) in Palawan under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). While for PP 2152, PENRO recommended only the modification of boundaries, especially for built-up areas. 3. The following are the next steps to be undertaken by the Sub-TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure copy of the proposal submitted to Congress and determine the reason for inaction to the request; and • Schedule the next meeting once the deliverables have been completed 		
ATTENDEES <i>Please indicate VIPs</i>	<p>San Vicente TEZ Secretariat</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hernando A. Enal, Manager, TEZ Assistance and Monitoring Department (TAMD) /Head, SVT Secretariat 2. Cesar B. Ladrangan, Jr., Enterprise Services Chief, TAMD-TEZ Compliance Monitoring Division (TCMD)/Member, SVT Secretariat <p>SVFTEZ-Sub-TWG for the identification of areas to be reclassified as A&D</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Eriberto Saños, Provincial Environment & Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), Palawan 2. Mr. Daryl Licerio, Project Development Officer, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) 3. EnP. Joven Bigoy, Enterprise Services Specialist, TAMD- SVFTEZ 4. Ms. Penny R. Molo, Municipal Assessor, Local Government Unit (LGU) of San Vicente 5. EnP Jessie Velete, Municipal Planning Development Coordinator (MPDC), LGU of San Vicente 6. Ms. Faye Angeli Reyes, Tourism Operations Officer, Department of Tourism Region IV-B 		

	<p>Other Attendees</p> <p>7. Mericris C. Tonio, Sr. Enterprise Services Specialist, TAMD-TCMD</p> <p>8. Ma. Lourdes Angel, Sr. Corporate Accounts Analyst, TAMD</p>
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING	
<p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF SIDE DISCUSSIONS/MEETINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If any</i></p> <p>The meeting started at 10:05 A.M.</p> <p>Mr. Hernando A. Enal, Manager of TAMD and Head of the SVT Secretariat gave the welcoming remarks for the initial convening of the Sub-TWG for the identification of areas to be reclassified as A&D. Per Mr. Enal, most of the accommodation establishments in San Vicente, particularly in Brgy. Port Barton, could not operate their businesses legally because they are occupying areas classified as timberland. The reclassification of areas is necessary to resolve the issue. Hence, the SVT Secretariat during its meeting last 16 June 2021 agreed to create a sub-TWG who shall assist the DENR, especially the PENRO, in the identification of priority areas for reclassification. As recommended by DENR-IVB Regional Executive Director (RED) Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer, the Sub-TWG shall be led by PENRO, and the members will be from the agencies represented in the SVT Secretariat such as the following:</p> <p>Lead: Mr. Eriberto Saños , PENRO</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Faye Angeli Reyes, Tourism Operations Officer of DOT-IV-B; 2. Mr. Daryl Licerio, Project Development Officer of PCSD; 3. Ms. Penny Pennel R. Molo, Municipal Assessor of LGU-San Vicente; 4. Mr. Jessie Velete, MPDC of LGU-San Vicente 5. Mr. Joven S. Bigoy, Enterprise Services Specialist of TIEZA SVFTEZ Office <p>Mr. Enal then turned over the floor to Mr. Cesar B. Ladrangan, Jr., Enterprise Services Chief of the TAMD-TCMD and member of the SVT Secretariat, to facilitate the meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Cesar B. Ladrangan explained that the Municipality of San Vicente was designated as a Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone (FTEZ) under RA 9593 last 29 September 2015. Then, the TIEZA and LGU San Vicente entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which created the San Vicente TEZ Management Committee (SVT ManCom), the interim TEZ Operator in the joint management of the San Vicente FTEZ. The ManCom is composed of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) TIEZA Chief Operating Officer (COO) as the Chairperson; b) Mayor of the Municipality of San Vicente as Vice-Chairperson; c) DOT authorized representative as a member; d) Assistant COO of the TEZ Management Sector as a member; e) Duly authorized representative from the corporate entity/private sector association that may be formed by the landowners and stakeholders in San Vicente, Palawan (the United Tourism Enterprise Association or Uni-TEA) <p>Under the ManCom, the SVT Secretariat was created to perform the functions of the interim TEZ Operator. The Secretariat consists of representatives from the TIEZA, LGU of San Vicente, DOT, DENR, and PCSD.</p> <p>Since the FTEZ's designation in 2015, stakeholders encountered problems related to the titling of properties due to the moratorium imposed on the entire province. The DENR recently lifted the moratorium in 10 municipalities of Palawan but not in San Vicente. With this, a lot of tourism</p>	

enterprises could not process their permits/licenses because of lacking proof of property ownership or tenurial instrument. The Uni-TEA already requested the lifting of the titling moratorium. The SVT ManCom endorsed their letter to the Governor of the Province of Palawan, the Secretary of the DENR, PENRO, *Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP)* of Palawan, and *Sangguniang Bayan (SB)* of San Vicente. The Uni-TEA also requested the reclassification of timberland areas into A&D lands. Hence, on 16 June 2021, the Secretariat created the Sub-TWG to expedite the concern. RED Ferrer agreed and supported this endeavor. The members of the Sub-TWG will serve as the focal persons of their respective agencies to ensure that the necessary support is immediately addressed.

The Secretariat only facilitated the initial convening of the Sub-TWG but the succeeding meetings are expected to be initiated by the Sub-TWG head. The Sub-TWG may also request assistance from the Secretariat in setting up or coordinating for the next meeting. Mr. Ladrangan shared the following relevant discussions during the SVT Secretariat meetings pertaining to land reclassification:

- The requested land reclassification requires a congressional act;
- The DENR is working on the repeal of 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”. The PP prohibited the disposition and alienation and settlement of the entire Province of Palawan;
- Cong. Alvarez pushed for the reclassification of the whole Northern District of Palawan but it did not succeed due to conflict in congress

Sub-TWG Discussion on the identification of areas to be classified/reclassified as A&D

For clarification, PENRO Saños explained the following:

1. The reclassification pertains specifically to timberland areas and such requires a congressional act. While for Unclassified Public Forest (UPF), the authority to classify is vested upon the DENR Secretary.
2. The PENRO has already completed the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) regarding the repeal of PP 219 and initially submitted the report to the DENR Regional Office, for subsequent endorsement to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). Then, the BMB will be the one to endorse it to Congress. The report was also endorsed by twenty-two (22) municipalities of Palawan. However, PENRO Saños said that the Regional Office needs the endorsement/resolution of the PASA by the *SP* of Palawan but the *SP* would like another session/meeting to discuss some issues. In the PASA made by PENRO, they recommended the total repeal of PP 219 considering that there are already designated PAs in Palawan under the NIPAS. The PENRO is still waiting for the schedule of the meeting with *SP*.
3. Mr. Enal asked if the Municipality of San Vicente is among the twenty-two (22) municipalities that endorsed the study of PENRO. PENRO Saños confirmed.
4. PENRO Saños shared that there is also an ongoing suitability assessment for Proclamation 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.” PENRO’s recommendation is not a total repeal but only the modification of boundaries, especially for built-up areas. If PPs 219 and 2152 will be implemented, there should be no people occupying the entire Palawan. Hence, PENRO Saños agrees that there should be action toward the repeal or modification of the aforementioned PPs. The timeline for the completion of PASA for PP 2152 is until 2022.

5. PENRO Saños discussed that the existing PPs would be the obstacle in the proposed reclassification of the timberland areas. However, he also shared that the above PPs are not strictly implemented in Palawan. In fact, there are still releases made in the areas of Culion and Puerto Princesa City.
6. PENRO Saños discussed that there was a pending request (since 2013 or 2014) for reclassification in Congress which was the result of the Forest Line Boundary Delineation (FLBD), a nationwide program of the DENR. Under the program, the Regional Assessment and Delineation Teams (RADTs) were created and the entire Philippines was surveyed. The survey for the MIMAROPA region was delayed but with the help of other RADTs, it was eventually submitted. The survey which was reviewed by the National Mapping Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Forest Management Bureau (FMB), and DENR Central Office, contains non-conforming blocks which are reclassifiable into A&D. However, in the FLBD, the timberland and UPF areas were not delineated because the intention is the omnibus declaration/designation of non-conforming blocks into A&D. But this is pending in congress. The PENRO advises the Municipalities that UPFs which were included in the RADT survey should be taken out since they do not require the congressional act to be A&D.

With the instruction of RED Ferrer, the PENRO overlaid and submitted shapefiles of the UPF maps covering the entire Palawan last September 2021. The Regional Office received them last 06 October 2021. For San Vicente, the PENRO proposed the classification of 4,593 hectares of UPF which include areas for annual crops, built-up areas, grassland, etc. They only left the mangrove areas and closed forests. He said that this initiative of PENRO for the UPF classification in Palawan is for further assessment and evaluation of the DENR Regional Office.

7. Upon inquiry of Mr. Enal if the 4,593 UPF hectares of San Vicente don't need to be included in the scope of study of the Sub-TWG anymore, PENRO Saños clarified that the PENRO only overlaid the identified UPF in the land cover map of the NAMRIA and submitted shapefiles. The Regional Office will then evaluate and conduct ground truthing/validation to get the accurate meets and bounds and technical description. Once completed, the PENRO will submit them to the FMB and NAMRIA. It is possible that the size of the initially identified 4,593 hectares UPF may decrease.
8. Mr. Velete inquired how the LGU can determine the 4,593 hectares UPF area as the LGU may be able to help in terms of validation if such areas are suited or ideal for release. The LGU is updating its CLUP and it can also include the UPF area in the CLUP. PENRO Saños answered that when the DENR conducts the ground-truthing/validation, they will closely coordinate with the LGU considering that the result will be harmonized in the LGU's CLUP, FLUP, and other plans.
9. Mr. Velete further inquired if the DENR has already scheduled the ground-truthing/validation. PENRO Saños answered that there is no schedule yet but he reiterated that it was already presented to the *SP* since the concurrence of the Provincial Government is also needed. The PENRO has only initially submitted the survey to the Regional Office as a preliminary working document.

Ground and Map Validation

Per Mr. Saños, the Regional Office will be the first to validate the survey on the ground, with the map and records. After which, it will be forwarded to the NAMRIA and FMB, Land Management Bureau (LMB) who will also conduct validation and assessment. These agencies will be the ones to endorse the final proposal to the DENR Secretary.

Per the inquiry of Mr. Ladrangan on how the TIEZA, LGU, and DOT could help the PENRO, Mr. Saños said that TIEZA, the concerned Congressmen, and other agencies may be able to help expedite the proposal for classification of UPF by officially sending a request to the DENR Secretary. The classification may be started with the Municipality of San Vicente. The LGU may also share in funding the related activities during ground validation, and putting of markings if necessary. The Regional Office will create a Work and Financial Plan (WFP) to determine the corresponding budget for the activities.

- Mr. Velete said that Mayor Amy Roa Alvarez is the chairperson of the League of Municipalities in Palawan. He requested PENRO Saños to address the concern to Mayor Alvarez. Then, Mayor Alvarez will be the one to bring the matter to the attention of the *SP* through the League of Municipal Mayors - Palawan Chapter. For the funding counterpart of San Vicente, he also suggested that PENRO Saños provide the details to Mayor Alvarez so that she could decide on the matter.
- Mr. Ladrangan suggested that the PENRO should furnish the Sub-TWG with a copy of the WFP for reference. PENRO Saños agreed.
- PENRO Saños clarified that what they have is the shapefile of overlaid map from the NAMRIA. The Regional Office will be the one to create the working map. PENRO Saños said that another option would be to invite the Regional Executive Director and request a copy of the pending proposal in congress. The sub-TWG can get the UPF data from the proposal and compare it with the current file of PENRO. He added that the NAMRIA's map is already the final output of the RADT.
- Mr. Joven S. Bigoy of the SVFTEZ Office confirmed that the SVFTEZ Office could facilitate the request for the needed copy of the proposal from the Regional Office. He added that the SVFTEZ Office could also help validate the boundaries of the UPF areas.
- Upon query of Mr. Enal, PENRO Saños clarified that the map illustrating the 4,593 hectares UPF was only submitted to the Regional Office and not in the NAMRIA, and not yet validated. There will be no need to conduct resurvey of the areas. Once the sub-TWG has secured a copy of the map submitted to Congress, it will only need to be overlaid with the PENRO's map. The Sub-TWG could use the help of the Regional Office in separating/identifying the timberland and UPF areas.
- Mr. Ladrangan then suggested PENRO Saños to communicate with the Office of the Municipal Mayor of San Vicente about the needed support to move forward with the repeal of PP 219 and in-ground validation of the initially identified UPF areas. PENRO Saños agreed. Further, he said that after the documents have been finalized, the TIEZA and the DOT may draft a letter to the DENR Secretary to expedite the approval of the classification of the UPF areas in San Vicente. PENRO Saños agreed and added that TIEZA and the DOT might also follow up on the request to lift the titling moratorium in Palawan.

Lifting of Titling Moratorium in San Vicente

- Upon the query of Mr. Ladrangan, PENRO Saños said that the moratorium shouldn't have been implemented for too long. He said that the request of the *Sangguniang Bayan (SB)* of San Vicente could help in expediting the lifting of the moratorium.
- Mr. Ladrangan then discussed that the SVT ManCom endorsed a copy of the letter from the Uni-TEA requesting the lifting of the moratorium. He also mentioned that the Office of the

DENR Secretary already instructed the Regional Office to act on the TIEZA COO-endorsed letter of request from the Uni-TEA, in accordance with the existing policies, rules, and regulations. The Regional Office is also instructed to coordinate directly with the COO of TIEZA, and submit to the Asst. Secretary the status of the actions taken for records and monitoring purposes.

- Mr. Velete confirmed that the SB of San Vicente issued Resolution No. 2020-25 earnestly and urgently appealing to the DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and Atty. Juan Miguel Picuna to include the Municipality of San Vicente in Palawan in the lifting of land titling suspension. Mr. Velete advised that he will email a copy of the resolution to the PENRO.

With the above updates presented, PENRO Saños said that the DENR Secretary will need a field inspection report as the basis of its decision. The PENRO will verify from his office if there is already a report. Mr. Ladrangan then said to ask PENRO Saños to advise the Sub-TWG of any support that his office may need.

Based on the discussions and to provide direction to the sub-TWG, Mr. Ladrangan suggested to prioritize the following as the next steps of the sub-TWG:

1. Secure copy of the proposal submitted to Congress and determine the reason for the inaction to the request; and
2. Schedule the next meeting once the deliverables have been completed.

Proposed Tourist Assistance Center (TAC) location in Brgy. Port Barton


Per Mr. Saños, the proposed project site of TIEZA is within an area covered by a Certificate of Stewardship Contract (CSC) awarded to Mrs. Achurra which has existing informal settlers. As advised by the Regional Executive Director of DENR IVB, it is the responsibility of CSC holder as the administrator/steward of the area, to require the IFS to vacate the land. However, if the area will be a part of the FTEZ, the concerned agencies may extend help in ejecting the IFS.

When asked, Mr. Velete advised that the LGU has already prepared a social case study for the affected households. He also said that the IFS are willing to vacate the area provided that they will be given assistance.

Upon the request of Mr. Enal, PENRO Saños rendered the closing remarks.

Having no more matters to be discussed, the meeting ended at 11:20 AM.

FOLLOW UPS <i>Projects, Concerns, Etal.</i>	CONTACT PERSON <i>Include Contact Details</i>
1. TIEZA to provide PENRO Copies of DENR Asst. Secretary's memorandum to DENR-IVB RED regarding the request for the moratorium lifting on land titling in San Vicente Flagship;	Mericris C. Tonio mctonio2.tieza@gmail.com
2. LGU San Vicente to provide PENRO a copy of Resolution No. 2020-25 appealing the DENR Secretary to include the Municipality of San Vicente in Palawan in the lifting of land titling suspension.	Mr. Jessie Velete mosanvicentepalawan@yahoo.com

<p>3. PENRO to furnish the Sub-TWG with a copy of its WFP for the needed financial support in ground validation of the 4953 hectares UPF area;</p> <p>4. SVFTEZ to request a copy of the pending proposal (with maps) for the repeal of PP 219 from the Regional Office</p>	<p>PENRO Eriberto Saños penropalawan@denr.gov.ph</p> <p>Mr. Joven S. Bigoy jsbigoy@gmail.com</p>
<p>Prepared by:</p>  <p>MERICRIS C. TONIO <i>Sr. Enterprise Services Specialist</i></p> <p>Attested by:</p> <p>ERIBERTO B. SAÑOS <i>Sub-TWG Lead/PENRO - Palawan</i></p>	

