



FOR/TO : **The Regional Executive Director**  
DENR Region IVB

**The Executive Director**

Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff  
PCSD Building, Sports Complex Road, Sta. Monica Heights,  
P.O. Box 45 Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, 5300

ATTN : PENRO Palawan

FROM : The OIC Director

SUBJECT : **FINALIZATION OF THE PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY  
ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PAG-ASA ISLANDS  
PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE, AND EASTERN  
KALAYAAN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAYAAN, PALAWAN**

DATE : MAY 27 2022

I. References

- A. Memorandum for President Rodrigo Roa Duterte from DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and National Security Adviser Hermogenes C. Esperon, endorsing the declaration of Eastern Kalayaan and Pag-asa Islands as NIPAS Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under the category of Protected Landscape and Seascape, dated 30 April 2019
- B. Proposed Presidential Proclamation declaring the Eastern Kalayaan as a Protected Landscape and Seascape (EKPLS) under the NIPAS, and Map with Technical Description
- C. Proposed Presidential Proclamation declaring the Pag-asa Islands as a Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) under the NIPAS, and Map with Technical Description
- D. Letter from Deputy Executive Secretary for General Administration Mcjill Bryant T. Fernandez to Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, *CESO I*, and BMB Director Natividad Y. Bernardino, following-up on:
  1. Maps of EKPLS and PIPLS signed by BMB and NAMRIA
  2. Other supporting documents for above proposed Presidential Proclamations

II. Background

- A. This is with reference to the endorsement of the Presidential Proclamations declaring the EKPLS and PIPLS in 2019. The Office of the Deputy Executive

Secretary for General Administration of the Office of the President (OP ODESGA), has recently followed up on the following:

1. the signature of the Maps, with technical descriptions, of the EKPLS and PIPLS by BMB and NAMRIA Officials to ascertain their correctness;
2. **conduct, or preparation, of (a) a protected area occupants survey; (b) an ethnographic study; (c) a protected area resource profile; (d) land and water use plans; and (e) other background studies, in compliance with Section 4(c) of the Expanded NIPAS Act;**
3. results of public consultations; and

B. The Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) can be undertaken to address most of the clarifications in Item d.i. above, supplemented by the scientific reports of DENR BMB Projects with the University of the Philippines on the West Philippine Sea, namely PROTECT WPS and PROTECT WPS 2.0.

C. The conduct of PASA Forms 1 and 2 (item D.3. above) have already been partially completed (around 75%) by BMB Staff during the recently concluded BMB meeting-workshop, and the Pag-asa Islands Expedition, community consultations, and Key Informant Interviews. However, some of the relevant information and reports may be housed in PENRO Palawan, CENRO Puerto Princesa, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and its Staff (PCSDS) or other Offices of the Local Government Unit of the Municipality of Kalayaan.

### III. Recommendations:

Foregoing considered, may we coordinate with your Offices for **your availability to accommodate BMB Focal Staff to complete the PASA Forms on June 9-10, 2022, in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.** Upon completion, the PENRO Palawan and RED may also affix their signatures onto the Forms.

For your consideration.

  
NATIVIDAD Y. BERNARDINO

