



APR 05 2021

HON. KARLO A. B. NOGRALES

Cabinet Secretary
Office of the Cabinet Secretary
Malacañang, Manila

SUBJECT: Directives from the 23rd IATF-Yolanda Meeting

Dear Sir:

This refers to your letter addressed to the DENR Secretary dated March 15, 2021 which was referred to this office by the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, and Director, Forest Management Bureau, in concurrent capacity dated March 26, 2021, pertaining to the above-mentioned subject, requesting this office a written report on instances wherein certain areas in Palawan were reclassified to accommodate resettlement housing projects.

May we respectfully inform the Honorable Secretary that as per report from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer (PENRO) of Palawan dated April 01, 2021, there were no instances nor request for reclassification and/or classification of forestland in Palawan proposed for Yolanda Housing Projects as of this date. No proposed House Bill reclassifying forestland in the province has likewise been filed in Congress for the said purpose.

Nonetheless, as part of the continuing assistance being extended by this Office, we have identified resettlement sites for the Yolanda victims in Palawan municipalities which are within the jurisdiction of our Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Calamianes, subject to the Unified Implementation and Monitoring of Rehabilitation and Recovery Projects and Programs in the Yolanda Corridor (IATF-YOLANDA), in coordination with NHA. These are:

1. Barangay Baldat, Culion

Lot No. 1349, Cad-1276-D listed as Barangay Site- for subdivision survey, covering a total of 5,366 square meters.

Lot No. 1499, Cad 1276-D listed as Barangay Site- for subdivision survey, covering a total of 3,761 square meters.

Both lots fall within Agricultural Land (*Alienable & Disposable Land*).

2. Barangay Culango, Culion

Lot No. 282, Cad-1276-D, covering a total of 38,964 square meters (*falls within timberland*)

3. Barangay Osmeña

Lot No. 2225, Cad-1276-D listed as Barangay Site, covering a total area of 79, 498 square meters

Lot No. 2226, Cad-01276-D listed as Barangay Site, covering a total area of 56, 706 square meters

Both lots fall within Agricultural land (*Alienable & Disposable land*).

4. Barangay Binudac, Culion

Lot No. 5029, Cad-1276-D listed to Francisca Villanueva (allegedly bought by Gov. Alvarez for Fisher folk Resettlement Site) covering a total area of 25, 321 square meters, and falls within Agricultural land (*Alienable & Disposable land*).

Subject area was already subdivided and approved, with about 220 lots already applied for titling under Residential Free Patent Application (RFPA) pursuant to R.A. No. 10023. Issuance of patents was withheld at the CENR office due to the Order issued by the DENR on May 28, 2015 which suspended the acceptance from public land application, issuance, processing and approval of survey authority and survey plans, and titling in Palawan. However, with the lifting of the suspension order as per Memorandum dated March 02, 2020 in eight (8) municipalities of the province, including the municipality of Culion, the pending patents will be reviewed and processed subject to DMC 2019-10.

It may be worth noting that the list of beneficiaries was then submitted by the Officer-In-Charge of DSWD Culion with the approval of the then Municipal Mayor Emiliano P. Marasigan, Jr.. Now, however, some of the listed beneficiaries are being questioned by the incumbent Mayor of Culion, Mayor Virginia N. de Vera.

5. Barangay Jardin, Culion

Lot No. 461, Cad-1276-D Listed for the Republic of the Philippines, covering a total area of 30, 373 square meters.

Lot No. 461, Cad-1276-D Listed for the Republic of the Philippines, covering a total area of 17, 517 square meters.

Lot No. 460, Cad-1276-D, for subdivision portion thereof, which is occupied as High School Compound, covering a total area of 98, 458 square meters.

All lots mentioned above fall within Agricultural land (*Alienable & Disposable land*).

6. Barangay Galoc, Culion

Lot No. 3881, Cad-1276-D listed sa Barangay Site, covering a total area of 148, 432 square meters.

Lot No. 3882, Cad-1276-D listed for the Republic of the Philippines, covering a total area of 50, 751 square meters.

Both lots fall within Agricultural land (*Alienable & Disposable land*).

Efforts were made to likewise identify sites in the Municipalities of Linapacan, Busuanga and Coron. The entire Municipality of Linapacan, however, is still classified as Unclassified Public Forest, hence, will require classification to Alienable and Disposable land, prior to titling. The whole municipality of Busuanga, on the other hand, is covered by a completed Cadastral survey, Cad-1150-D, but our CENRO Calamanianes has not received any feedback on the status of the final identified area for resettlement site.

As for Coron, an old titled property within the BPR (Busuanga Pasture Reserve), was allegedly bought by the governor of Palawan purposely for the Fisherfolk Resettlement Site. The Land is within Unclassified Public Forest, covering a total land area of 239, 633 square meters.

Furthermore, a portion of 10 hectares of Lot No. 103, Gss-4A-000012, one of the resettlement sites located in Coron for the Busuanga Special Project covered by Administrative Order No. 1 (DENR Secretary), dated January 20, 1975, falls within Unclassified Public Forest (UPF). Said area shall be subject for classification from the UPF to Alienable and Disposable land, in order to legalize processing and issuance of title of the said resettlement area.

Outside of areas identified by this office, the NHA is developing a project specifically located at Sitio Pinagkulungan, Barangay San Nicholas, Coron, Palawan. For this site, we have recently received a request for a project site development clearance from the Project contractor, Front Nine Konstruct Builders and Realty Development, commissioned by NHA for the development of housing project, accordingly intended for the relocation of the informal settlers occupying the dangerous areas along the shoreline, and for the of typhoon Yolanda victims.

This Office reviewed and indorsed the requested project site to the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) for further review and consideration dated February 16, 2021, considering that the site falls within the Busuanga Pasture Reserve (BPR) declared by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1387, s. 1975, and which is under the direct administration of FMB pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 663, s. 2013. Per memorandum copy furnished this Office, the indorsement was referred to the office of the Director, DENR Legal Affairs Service dated March 30, 2021 for legal advice.

This project site has the following land status:

1. The total area is 24 hectares and covered with a land title, TCT No. T-8335 dated March 07, 1984, and Original Certificate of Title (OCT) dated July 1949.
2. The area falls within *forestland* as per unified replotted Land Classification;
3. Majority of the area falls within 0-8% slope category; and
4. As per 2015 land cover, the area is predominantly covered with grassland and shrubs.

Action taken by the DENR on the above-mentioned request will be immediately coordinated with NHA as soon as the report from the said Legal Affairs Service office is released, for information and guidance.

Submitted for information of the Honorable Secretary.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


MARIA LOURDES G. FERRER, CESO III
Regional Executive Director

Cc: The Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment
The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects, and Director
Forest Management Bureau, in concurrent capacity

