

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
MIMAROPA Region

7/F DENR Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila
Telefax No. (+632) 8536-0215 / (+632) 5310-1369
Email: region4b@mgb.gov.ph



29 March 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Director
Environmental Management Bureau
MIMAROPA Region

FROM : The OIC, Office of the Regional Director
This Office

SUBJECT : Investigation on the Alleged Environmental Damage
Caused by Sand and Gravel Quarry in Isaub River in
Barangay Isaub, Aborlan, Palawan

We are respectfully forwarding the attached 24 March 2022 Memorandum from the OIC- CENRO – Puerto Princesa City providing this Office a copy of the report dated 23 March 2022.

The above report revealed the following findings to the sand and gravel (SAG) project of Ms. Violeta Lumis:

1. It has affected the public water supply of Barangay Isaub;
2. It did not maintain enough buffer zone resulting to an enhanced erosion in the embankments of the river; and
3. It has no proper stockpile area for its SAG materials.

Please be informed that the concerns raised are beyond the jurisdiction of this Office, hence, forwarded for the Regional Director's information and further action.

By Authority of the Regional Director:


ELLENGRACE R. GALISTE
Chief, Mine Management Division

Enc'l: As stated

cc: The Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

The PENRO and Concurrent Acting PMRB Chairperson
Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

The CENRO – Puerto Princesa City
Community Environment and Natural Resource Office
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan



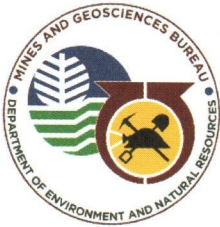
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Memorandum
3:30 2022



MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
MIMAROPA Region

**"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE."**



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29 March 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The PENRO and
Concurrent Acting PMRB Chairperson
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City
Province of Palawan

FROM : The OIC, Office of the Regional Director
This Office

SUBJECT : Investigation on the Alleged Environmental Damage
Caused by Sand and Gravel Quarry in Isaub River in
Barangay Isaub, Aborlan, Palawan

This refers to the 24 March 2022 Memorandum Report from the OIC-CENRO – Puerto Princesa City to your Office, copy furnished this Office.

We note from the said report that the Sand and Gravel (SAG) operation of Ms. Violeta Lumis committed violations, which may be contrary to the conditions stipulated in its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

In this regard, the PMRB – Palawan is requested to coordinate with the Environmental Management Bureau – MIMAROPA Region for the assessment of the extent of violation allegedly committed by Ms. Lumis and to re-evaluate its SAG Permit renewal application.

For the PENRO's action, please.

By Authority of the Regional Director:

Elengrace R. Galiste
ELLENGRACE R. GALISTE
Chief, Mine Management Division

Enc'l: As stated

cf: The Regional Executive Director
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

The Regional Director
Environmental Management Bureau
MIMAROPA Region

The CENRO – Puerto Princesa City
Community Environment and Natural Resource Office
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Region IV - MIMAROPA
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

24 March 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer
Brgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : INVESTIGATION ON THE ALLEGED ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY IN ISAUB RIVER IN BARANGAY ISAUB, ABORLAN, PALAWAN

**DENR PENRO
PALAWAN RECORDS
RECEIVED**

BY:
DATE: 03-25-2022

Respectfully forwarding the report of Ms. Aira Marie V. Perez, Science Research Specialist II of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) MIMAROPA Region referring to the abovementioned subject.

Stated in the report are the background information, purpose and scope, findings and observation, and comments and recommendations.

For inclusion in the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) agenda and information.

Please acknowledge the receipt thereof through our e-mail address below.

DENR MIMAROPA REGION
CENRO PUERTO PRINCESA
RELEASED
NO: 976
DATE: 3-25-22
BY:

PEDRO A. VELASCO

Development Management Officer IV
DENR-CENRO Officer in Charge

cc: The Regional Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau MIMAROPA Region

The Board Secretariat
Provincial Mining regulatory Board (PMRB)

South National Highway, Bgy. Sta. Monica
Puerto Princesa City
Email Address: cenroppchuc@yahoo.com
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Region IV - MIMAROPA
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

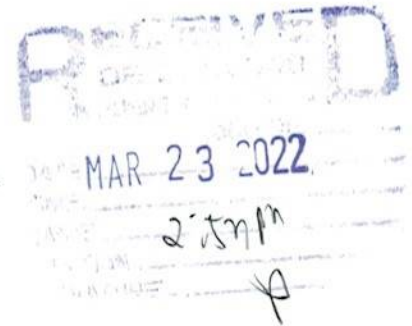
23 March 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Brgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Undersigned

SUBJECT : INVESTIGATION ON THE ALLEGED
ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY SAND AND
GRAVEL QUARRY IN ISAUB RIVER IN BARANGAY
ISAUB, ABORLAN, PALAWAN.



Pursuant to Travel Order No. 2022-03-11-1285 dated March 10, 2022, the undersigned, Aira Marie V. Perez of the Mines and Geosciences MIMAROPA conducted investigation in Brgy. Isaub, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan regarding the above subject.

Background Information

This Office received a letter on 3 March 2022 from residents of Barangay Isaub thru their representative Ms. Gladys Villarosa/Rafael Villarosa Jr. According to the letter the complainants residing along the river segment are strongly against for the renewal of the SAG permit operated by Ms. Violeta Lumis. They stated in the letter that they are benefiting from the water of Isaub River. During the operation of Ms. Violeta Lumis, their source of water used for drinking, laundry, and farming became turbid. They are greatly affected by the quarry due to the widening and deepening of the segment during the extraction. These pose risk to their children when taking a dip in the river and farmlands affected due to erosion in the embankment.

According to the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) Ms. Violeta Lumis filed an application for the renewal of its SAG Permit. Investigation was conducted to assess the area to give clarification to the issues raised in this office and endorse to concerned agencies before granting the renewal of Ms. Violeta Lumis, if pursued.

Purpose and Scope

The undertaking aims to assess and evaluate the veracity of claims of the residents of Sitio Linao, Barangay Isaub, Aborlan, Palawan and provide field findings and recommendations. The on-site investigation included ocular inspection of the subject area, photo documentation, as well as verbal communication with the representative from the complainants.

Findings and Observations

1. The Isaub River can be accessed through the Puerto Princesa South Highway and local gravelly road approximately at 9°30'15.85" N, 118°34'17.92" E. The travel time to the area is roughly 1 hour drive via four wheeled vehicle southwest of the city proper. The quarried area of Ms. Violeta Lumis is located approximately at 9°30'41.35" N, 118°34'38.20" E upstream and 9°30'25.21" N, 118°35'3.28" E downstream (WGS 84). It occupies roughly 900 meters of the Isaub River and some portions are situated in the riverbanks. (Refer to attached Location Map as **Annex – 1**);
2. There are seventy-five (75) signatories thru Ms. Gladys Villarosa that are against for the renewal of the commercial sand and gravel permit of Ms. Violeta Lumis. According to Ms. Villarosa their water source for doing household chores and farming has been affected when the operation of Ms. Lumis started in 2020. Alarmingly, they were forced to buy bottles of mineral water for drinking during the operation of Ms. Lumis. The water pump is located approximately at 9°30'32" N, 118°34'46" E, five to seven meters away from the river (**See Photo 1 and 2**). Additionally, they claimed that the location of the pump before the quarry, was more than seven meters away from the river;
3. They claimed that the river width in the segment where Ms. Lumis operated widened because of the use of backhoes and trucks in the extraction. It was added that the operators did not maintain enough buffer zone during extraction. It was also mentioned that there were individuals aside from Ms. Lumis who extracted sand and gravel using shovel then transported through small vehicles. The river width before is claimed ten to twelve meters but during site investigation the current width is approximately twenty to thirty meters. Because of the pronounced erosion in the embankment (**See Photo3 and 4**), coconut trees were observed toppled and fallen, these trees were planted in private areas. Moreover, the farm owners are worried that further erosion may cause further failure of river embankment and will damage their plantation if the quarry of Ms. Lumis resume. The depth of the river segment was not observed because it was raining during the investigation causing the water to be turbid;

4. It was also mentioned by Ms. Villarosa that Barangay Isaub did not issue any Barangay endorsement for the 2020 to 2021 permit of Ms. Lumis. Barangay Sagpangan rather was the Barangay consulted and issued the Barangay Endorsement necessary for the permit. This was contested by the complainants, according to them they are residing along the Isaub River and is in the jurisdiction of Barangay Isaub;
5. An inquiry to the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board was made regarding the permit issued to Ms. Lumis to verify if there was legality to the operation done in the area. Ms. Violeta Lumis is a permittee from June 10, 2020 to June 9, 2021. It was disclosed that there is issued Special Delivery Receipt to Ms. Lumis for undisposed stockpile in the area. During field investigation it was noted that there was stockpile of dominantly pebble to cobble located approximately at 9°30'37" N, 118°34'36" E (**See Photo 5**) There is also a filed application for the renewal for the SAG Permit but the requirements are not yet submitted.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Upon checking, with the aid of the CENRO-PPC GIS Unit based on the approved cadastral map on November 27, 1984, Paged 7/13, Cad-779-D the segment of the river where Ms. Lumis operated is under the jurisdiction of Barangay Sagpangan. To address the concerns of the residents involved in this investigation, coordination with the barangay council of Brgy. Isaub, Brgy. Sagpangan, and the permittee is recommended before any endorsement from the Barangay regarding to the renewal of the SAG permit is given;
2. During a SAG quarry there will be disturbance in bedload of the stream, smaller particles such as sand and silt will float in the water column. Flotation of sand and silt causes discoloration to the river that makes the water turbid. However, given a time, these suspended particles will settle and the water column will revert to normal. In this case, the water resource use by the public is located near the quarry area operated by Ms. Lumis. According to Sec.79a Chapter VIII of Department Administrative Order 2010-21:

No Extraction, removal and/or disposition of materials shall be allowed within a distance of one (1) kilometer from the boundaries of reservoirs established for public water supply, archeological and historical sites or of any public or private works or structures, unless prior clearance of the Government agency(ies) concerned or owner is obtained. No extraction, removal and/or disposition of materials shall likewise be allowed in offshore areas within five hundred (500) meters distance from the coast and two hundred (200) meters from the mean low tide.

It is recommended that this matter is further evaluated by the LGU in coordination with the permittee and the residents affected before granting any endorsement for the renewal of the SAG permit;

3. Pronounced erosion were observed in the area during field investigation. During the extraction, Ms. Lumis apparently did not maintain enough buffer zone that enhanced the erosion in the embankments along the quarried area. The erosion caused failure of embankments and fall of trees planted above it. To ensure the self-sustaining post-disturbance to the area, simultaneous rehabilitation in the area must have been done. To evaluate the rehabilitation, it is recommended that Ms. Lumis present documents of the rehabilitated areas specially along the embankments of the quarried area. Furthermore, it is emphasized in this report that recommended buffer zones must always be followed;
4. The stockpile located at approximately 9°30'37" N, 118°34'36" E is situated in the active channel of the river. Smaller particles are carried through the downstream segment of the channel and this will affect the quality of the water. Also, there were no markers nor indication that the stockpile is for disposition. It is recommended that stockpiling should have substantial distance from the river and beyond the recommended buffer zone. It is recommended to be checked by the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) the identification of the undisposed stockpile in the area;
5. Re-assessment of the recommended resource volume allowed through a GAR must be done in the area to ensure that there is enough deposit of sand and gravel for extraction. The river must be allowed to recover to prevent further damage from quarry activities. The quarry operations must only be resumed once the supply of the resource is renewed;
6. It must be noted that the use of heavy equipment in conducting river quarry is allowed and it is the primary responsibility of Permittee, Contractor, or Permit Holder to police the permit/contract area from any illegal mining operations under the Republic Act 7942 otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.
7. Moreover, it is recommended that before granting the renewal of the SAG Permit of Ms. Violeta Lumis, the compliance to the ECC should be reevaluated.

For CENRO's consideration and further actions.


AIRA MARIE V. PEREZ
Science Research Specialist II

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Puerto Princesa City
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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

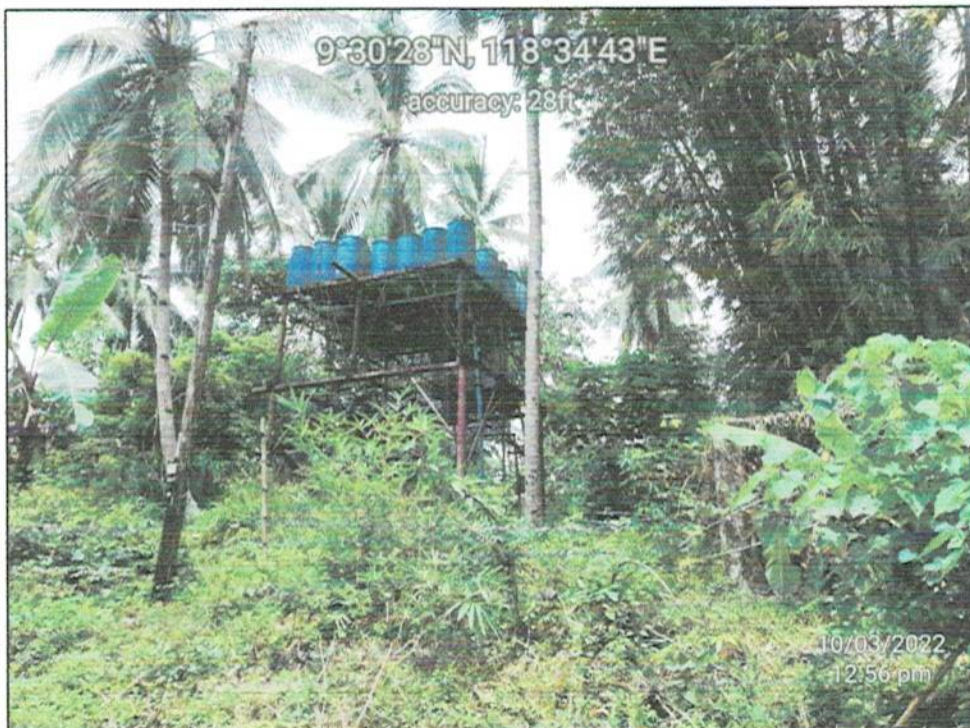


Photo 1. Storage of sourced water from the river.



Photo 2. Water pump along the Isaub River

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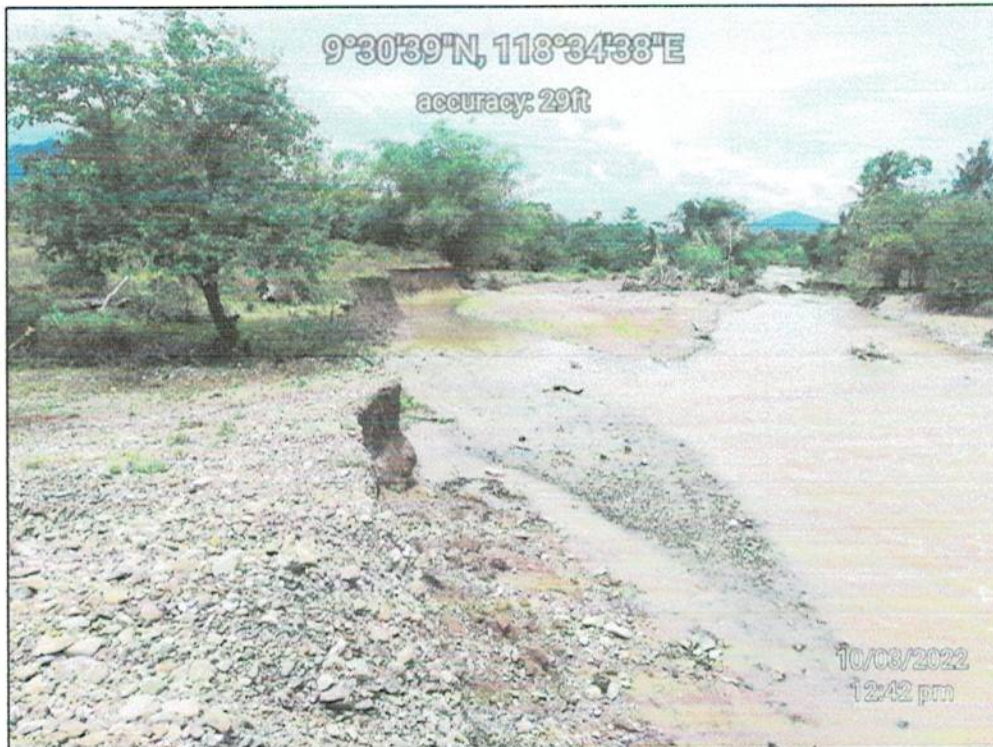


Photo 3. Observed erosion in the embankments of the river segment and fallen trees in the area.

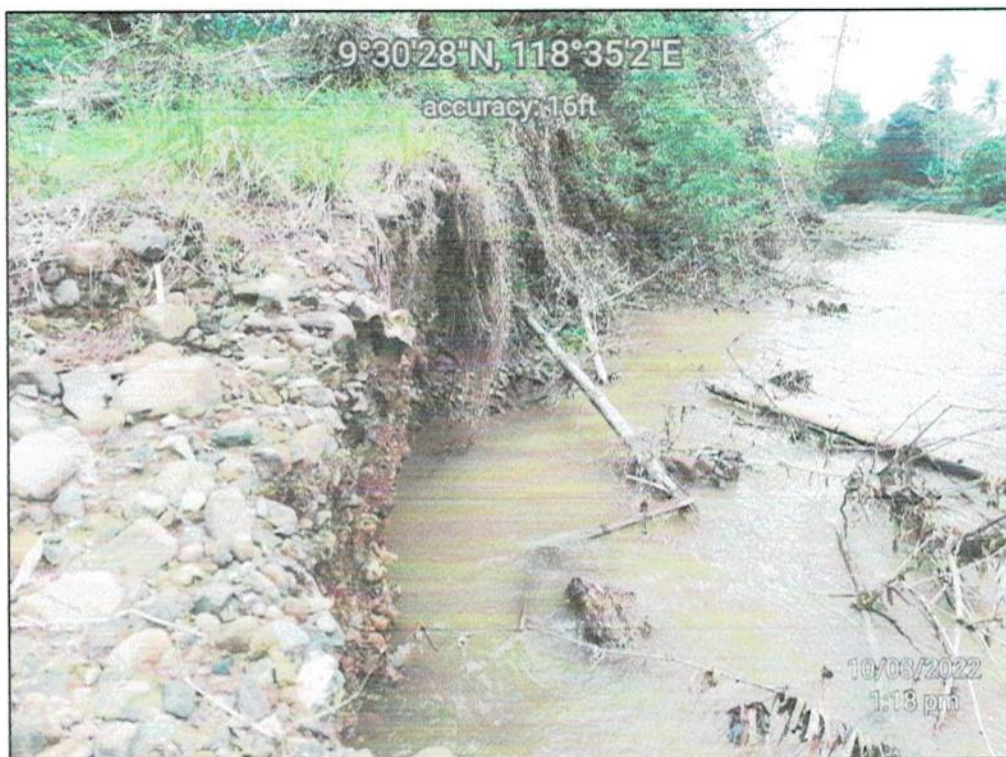


Photo 4. Observed erosion in the embankments of the river segment.



Photo 5. Undisposed stockpile in the area.

ANNEX -A

