



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office  
Barangay 5, Calamianes Island, Coron, Palawan  
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## MEMORANDUM

**FOR :** **The Regional Director**  
1515 L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd.  
Ermita, Manila

**The OIC-Regional Executive Director**  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau-MIMAROPA  
DENR Building, Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

**THRU :** **Provincial Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer**  
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

**FROM :** **The Community Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer**  
Coron, Palawan

**SUBJECT :** **INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL  
MOUNTAIN QUARRY IN SITIO PAKUNAN, BRGY. SAN  
NICOLAS SITUATED WITHIN THE BUSUANGA PASTURE  
RESERVE**

**DATE :** **15 MAY 2022**

Respectfully forwarding herewith is the joint investigation report from CENR Office personnel together with embedded personnel from Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the BPR Management Office personnel dated May 15, 2022, on the alleged illegal mountain quarry in Sitio Pakunan, Brgy. San Nicolas Coron, Palawan situated within the Busuanga Pasture Reserve.

For the Regional Executive Director's information, record and further instruction/s, if any.

For and in the absence of the CENRO



**MARK GLENN D. MANAGDAG**  
ECOMS II,  
In-Charge of the Office of the CENR



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**  
MIMAROPA Region  
Coron, Palawan

15 May 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR :** The Community Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer  
Coron, Palawan

**FROM :** The Undersigned

**SUBJECT :** INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL  
MOUNTAIN QUARRY IN SITIO PAKUNAN, BRGY. SAN  
NICOLAS SITUATED WITHIN THE BUSUANGA PASTURE  
RESERVE



This pertains to the instruction from CENRO-Coron dated 14 March 2022 to conduct an immediate investigation on the mountain quarry situated at Sitio Pakunan, Brgy. San Nicolas, Coron. This is in connection with a complaint received from a concerned citizen via a social media platform.

The investigation was conducted on the same date. The team is composed of the following staff: Ms. Casandra Lynda Jalac embedded personnel of the Mines and Geoscience Bureau MIMAROPA Region assigned in Coron, Mr. Richard Galagate Project Operations Control Officer of Busuanga Pasture Reserve Management Office (BPRMO) of Forest Management Bureau, Mr. Mark Glenn Managdag Ecosystem Management Specialist II of CENRO Coron, and Mr. Romel Gacayan Office Support Staff/Bantay Gubat of BPRMO. During this investigation, Kgw. Luisito Mondragon of Brgy. San Nicolas assisted the undersigned.

**Background Information**

Based on the complainant, this alleged illegal mountain quarry is the source for the reclamation in Sitio Digiboy, Brgy. Poblacion 6. This reclamation is for the proposed public market a government project initiated by the local government of Coron (Figure 1). This LGU project is approximately 16 km away from the said mountain quarry. The proponent of this quarry site is mentioned to be the former Vice Mayor of Makati, Mr. Mercado who allegedly owns the 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc.

Based on the information gathered, this LGU-project started around 2017. As seen in google images, the reclamation in the area started circa 2018 (Annex-1). Based on the satellite photo, approximately seven (7) hectares were already reclaimed by the project proponent.



As mentioned by Kgwd. Mondragon, excavation in the quarry area started last 13 May 2022. He further stated that the barangay was aware of this excavation; however, they were not sure if the proponent is operating legally or not.



**Figure 1.** Location map of the investigated mountain quarry in Sitio Pakunan, Brgy. San Nicolas and the proposed public market in Sitio Digiboy, Brgy. Poblacion 6. The white line denotes the barangay boundary whereas the red line represents the Busuanga Pasture Reserve (BPR) border. The image source is Google Earth.

### **Purpose and Scope**

The field campaign was conducted to investigate the veracity of the complaint received. Furthermore, to check the current situation of the quarry site. This investigation includes an ocular inspection, photo documentation, and verbal communication with the representative of the proponents

### **Findings and Observations**

1. The subject area is geographically located at  $12^{\circ} 06' 00''$  N,  $120^{\circ} 10' 17''$  E. This mountain quarry is situated within the Busuanga Pasture Reserve (Figure 1). This is ~17 km away from its dumping site, the proposed public market, and approximately 18 km far from CENRO. It can be accessed thru barangay roads and be reached within 30 minutes of car travel.
2. Prior to the on-site investigation, the undersigned first paid a courtesy to the barangay to discuss the purpose of the fieldwork. The only available barangay official during the visit was Kgwd. Luisito Mondragon. Based on the statement of the kagawad, the barangay is aware that the 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc. is conducting quarry activity within



their jurisdiction, however, they did not know if the proponent has the necessary permit to operate. He further added that the proponent started their extraction last 13 May 2022. The undersigned asked for his assistance in the investigation which he gladly accepts.

3. While having a dialogue with the barangay official, an empty dump truck traveling to the subject area was observed along the way. This was identified as the truck of the proponent operating in the area. Its identification is a white 10-wheeler HOWO truck with the number 19 imprinted on it (*see Photo Documentation*).
4. Upon arrival at the area, an ongoing extraction of aggregates was observed (*see Photo Documentation*). One backhoe, one rock breaker, and four dump trucks (truck numbers 17, 18, 19, and 23) were among the quarry equipment noted in the area. Some of the acquired names of the drivers and operators were the following: Mr. Jefferson Rodriguez, Mr. Jay-Ar Bernardo, Ruel Kasampol, Mr. Reymart Camilla, and Mr. Ingo Camasin.
5. One truck (#23) whose about to deliver the excavated aggregates to their dumping site was asked to hold (*see Photo Documentation*). The driver was identified to be Mr. Ingo Camasin. As per Mr. Camasin, this truck contains 18 cu. m. of aggregates and is also his third deliver for today. No delivery receipt (DR) was provided when the undersigned asked for this document. Apart from the DR, the undersigned also asked at which PMRB checkpoint their delivery was being recorded. Based on Mr. Camasin, no deliveries were recorded at the PMRB checkpoint but rather they have a trip ticket at the dumping site at Sitio Digiboy.
6. After the short interview with the truck driver, Mr. Romel Mercado, the inspector of the company arrived at the subject area (*see Photo Documentation*). As per Mr. Mercado, they have no permit in the area, however, they have the permission of the PMRB to extract in the area. The undersigned asked for a physical document regarding this permission, but no paper was presented. Mr. Mercado further stated that they only have a verbal agreement with the PMRB Coron. In addition, a certificate from EMB for the operation was also asked but no certification was also provided to the undersigned.
7. The mentioned agreement was verified to the PMRB via phone call. Based on the discussion with the PMRB head, Ms. Teresa Casareno, the 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc. indeed requested their office for this extraction. The PMRB, however still did not conform to the said request and no go signal for the extraction was given to the proponent.
8. After the inspection of the quarry site, the proposed public market in Sitio Digiboy. Brgy. Poblacion 6 was visited. The project engineer, Engr. Cesar Reyes was the one who was interviewed by the undersigned (*see Photo Documentation*). The deliveries from the mountain quarry to the proposed public market were confirmed by Engr. Reyes. Based on his statement, there have been approximately 25 dump truck loads delivered to this site since 13 May 2022, with dump trucks containing 18-20 cu. m. He further mentioned that these aggregates are used to increase the elevation of the reclaimed land. Also, during the discussion, the trip ticket mentioned by the drivers were requested by the undersigned. This document, however, will be sent by the proponent this 16 May 2022.



## Comments and Recommendations

1. Based on the present list of permittees given by the PMRB-Coron (Annex-2), 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc. has no right to excavate in the area. It is advised to the proponent that extracting without a valid permit and EMB certificate is considered to be illegal. It is recommended to cease-and-desist in operation and first secure the necessary permits/certificates before the extraction.
2. If 428 Hi-Tech Inc. wants to continue its operation, it is advised to apply for a Government Gratuitous Permit to Palawan PMRB under item (a) Section 73 of DENR Administrative Order.

*Any Government entity/instrumentality in need of quarry, sand and gravel or loose/unconsolidated materials in the construction of building(s) and/or infrastructure for public use or other purposes may apply for a Government Gratuitous Permit (MGB Form No. 8-3B) with the Provincial Governor/City Mayor through the Provincial/City Mining Regulatory Board for a period coterminous with the construction stage of the project but not to exceed one (1) year in public/private land(s) covering an area of not more than two (2) hectares. The applicant shall submit a project proposal stating where the materials to be taken shall be used and the estimated volume needed.*

3. As to conducting extraction without a permit, this violates Section 103 of RA 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

*Theft of Minerals – Any person extracting minerals and disposing the same without mining agreement, lease, permit, license, or steals minerals or ores or the products thereof from mines or mills or processing plants shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned from six (6) months to six (6) years or pay a fine from ten thousand pesos (Php 10, 000.00) to twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the appropriate court. In addition, he shall be liable to pay damages and compensation for the minerals removed, extracted, and disposed of. XXX*

Furthermore, the extracted materials are considered to be illegally sourced mineral/mineral products. Section 116 Chapter XII of DAO 2010-21 defines this term as,

*Illegally sourced minerals/mineral products are those which are mined, extracted, removed, and/or disposed of without the authority or permit under existing mining laws, rules and regulations.*


4. Apart from the abovementioned violations, the quarry site is also located within the BPR. This constitutes to violation of Presidential Proclamation No. 1387 and Presidential Proclamation No. 663. Any development activities within the BPR must acquire clearance from the Forest Management Bureau before any movements.


*Whereas, Proclamation No. 1387 (s. 1975) withdrew from any form of disposition exploration or exploitation, and reserved as pasture reserve a parcel of land of the public domain in Busuanga, Palawan.*


*Repealing Proclamation No. 2057 and transferring the administration of the Busuanga Pasture Reserve to the DENR-Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB).*

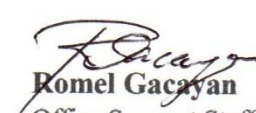
5. Endorse this to PMRB-Palawan for the proper evaluation of the violations and penalties. It is recommended that the proponent shall pay maximum penalties for extracting materials without the necessary permits.
6. To CENRO-Coron, to immediately issue a Notice of Violation and communicate to the proponent to stop their operation.
7. To refer this to EMB for their evaluation in both the proposed public market and the quarry site. If seen violating their existing laws, resolutions, and other regulations proper sanctions should be imposed and shall be penalized.
8. The forward this to other relevant offices to investigate other violations and impose other proper sanctions.
9. The PMRB-Palawan/Coron is asked to further explain their agreement with the 428 Hi-Tech Group Inc. Should they implement a special exception for any proponent there should be a resolution or a memorandum that should copy furnish offices concerning mining and quarrying such as MGB. Furthermore, the same office is advised to impose the law and should promote the legal way of quarrying/extraction activity.
10. It is also directed to PMRB that for any activity within the reservation, a clearance from FMB should first be secured.

For your reference, record, and further instruction(s).

  
**Casandra Lynda Jalac**  
Science Research Specialist II  
MGB MIMAROPA – Embedded Personnel

  
**Richard John Galagate**  
Project Operations Control Officer  
BPRMO

  
**Mark Glenn Managdag**  
ECOMS II  
CENRO – Coron

  
**Romel Gacayan**  
Office Support Staff/Bantay Gubat  
BPRMO



### Photo Documentation

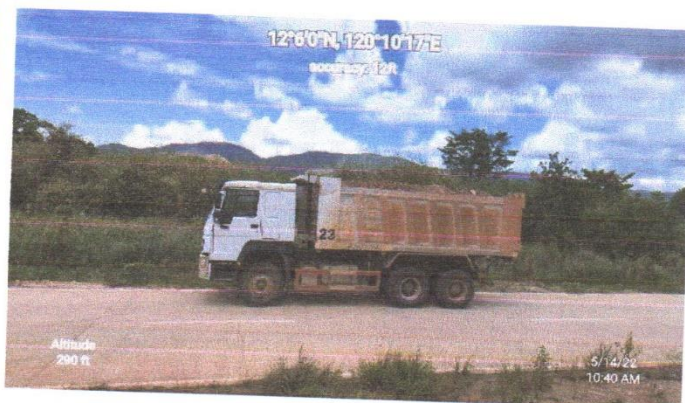
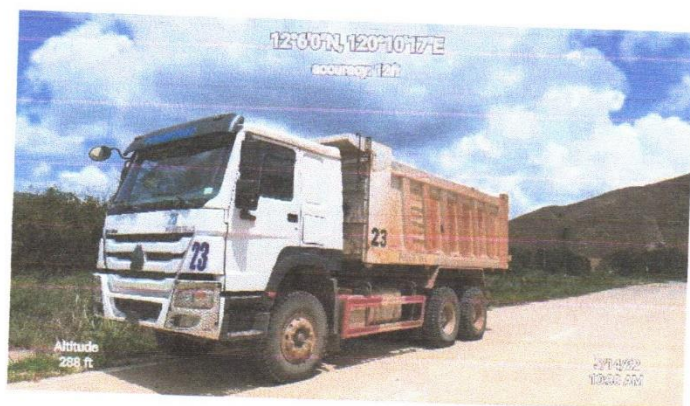


The number 19 dump truck spotted going to the alleged mountain quarry in Sitio Pakunan, Brgy. San Nicolas

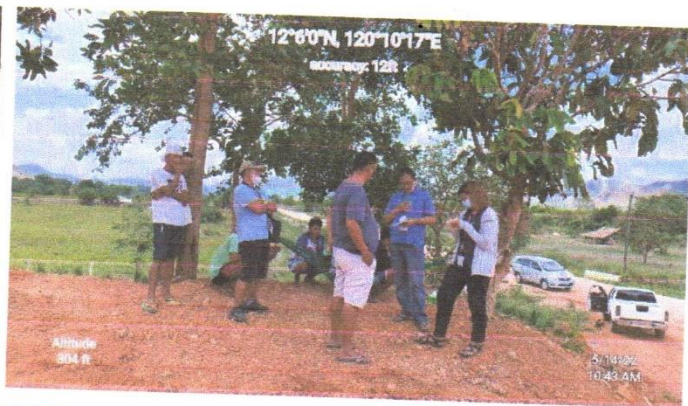
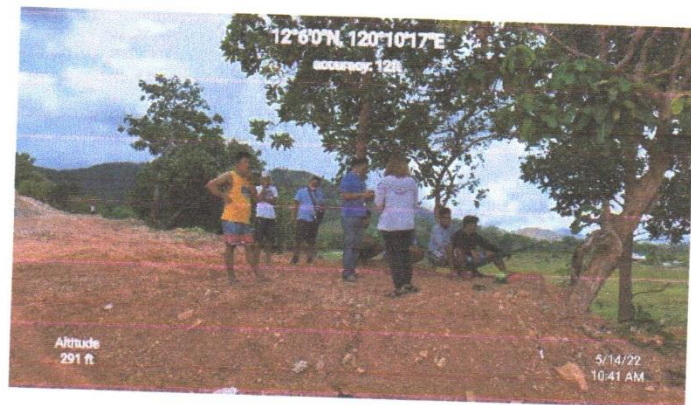


The observed ongoing mountain quarry in the area. Backhoe, rock breaker, and dump trucks were observed operating during the time of inspection.



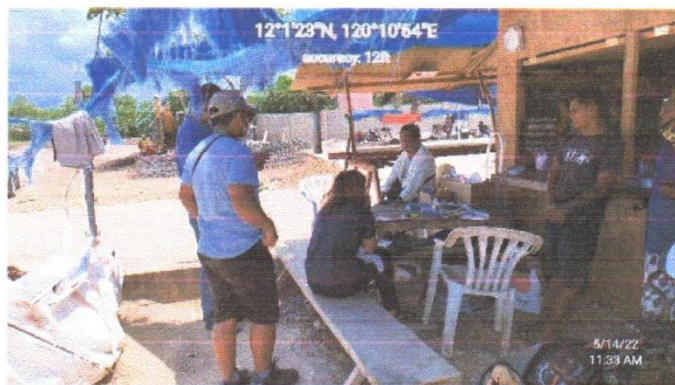


Truck #23 caught delivering the excavated earth materials to their dumping site.  
It contains ~18 cu. m. of aggregates

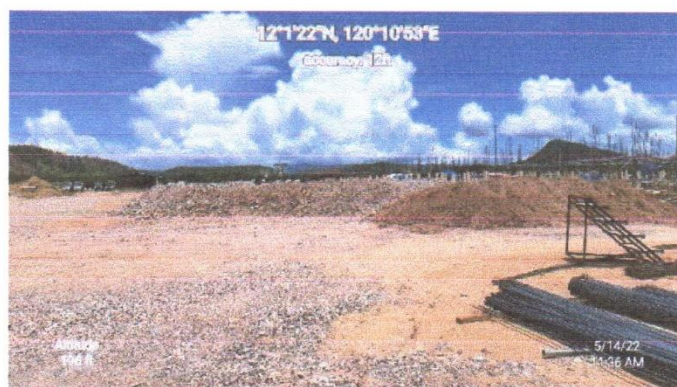
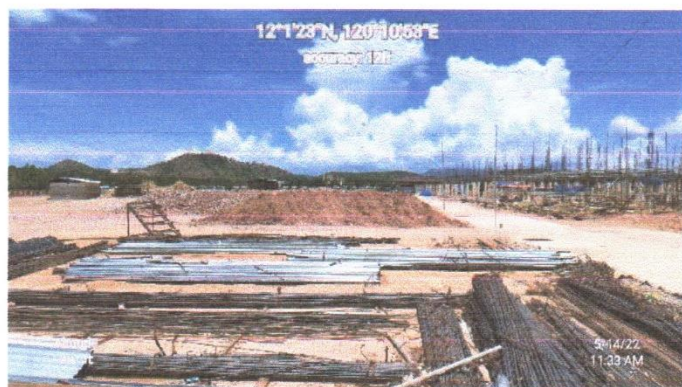


Discussion of the undersigned with the drivers of the quarry equipment and  
Mr. Romel Mercado, the inspector of the company





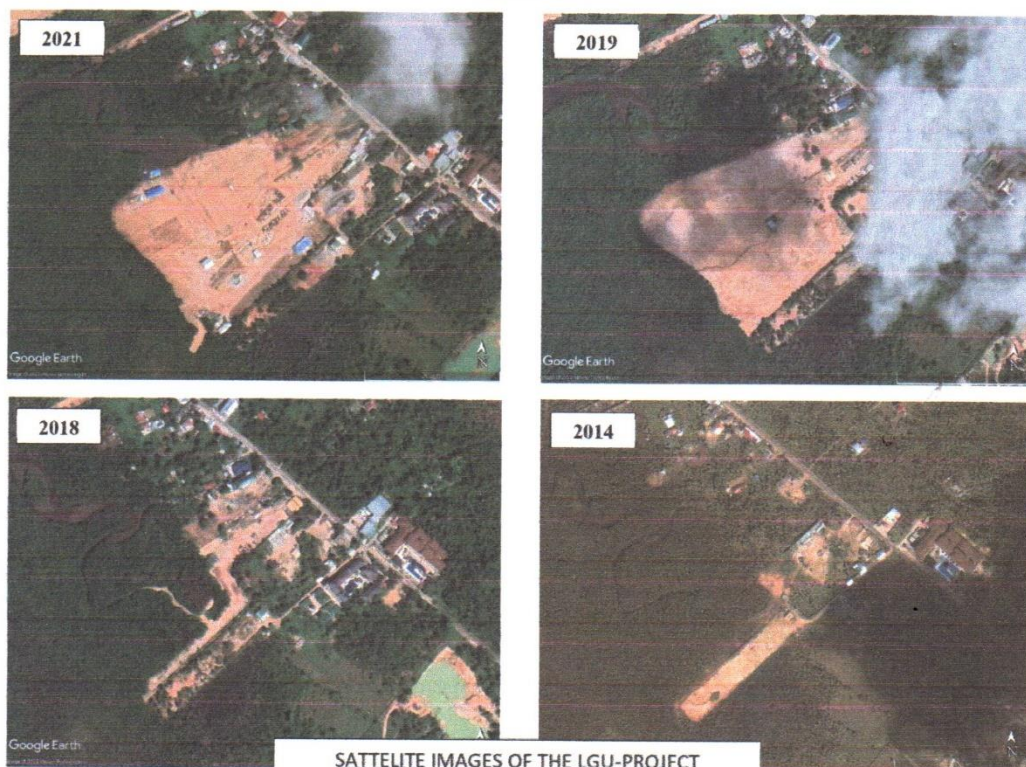
A brief discussion of the undersigned with the project engineer, Engr. Reyes.



The observed aggregates dumped in the project area.



Annex-1



DENR, Calle Nueva, Coron Town Proper, Coron, Palawan  
Contact Nos.: 0917-504-2633



## Annex-2

### PMRB LIST OF PERMITTEES IN CALAMIANES ISLAND

There are no permittees yet. Their permits expired 2020. They are in the process of renewing their permits. All documents are submitted to PMRB Technical Office.

CORON - Sand & Gravel

- 1) Jose Castro - expired permit 2020 - in the process
- 2) Jimmy Monday - expired permit 2020 - in process
- 3) Renato Correa - expired permit 2020 - in process

QUARRY -

- 1) Bella C. Tiofango - 2018 - 2023 - permittee
- 2) Michelle C. Tiofango - 2018 - 2023 -

Busuanga - CSG

- 1) Helina Jemel - expired in 2020 - in process
- 2) Jemuel Pabia - expired in 2022 Jan. - \*

